

T H E
Queene of Nauarres
Tales.

Containing,
Verie pleasant Discourses
of fortunate Louers.

*Now newly translated out of French
into English.*



LONDON,
Printed by V.S. for John Oxenbridge,
and are to be sold at his shop in Paules
churchyard at the signe of the
Parrot 1597



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To his assured good friend
I.O. Stationer.

Ir , you hauing manie times
beene in hand with me about
a booke intituled, *The Queene*
of Nauarres Tales; which (as
you say) you haue caused to
be translated out of French, at
your proper charges, on mind
to Print it, and you haue seuerall times bin in hand
with me to write you a Preface. You know I ne-
uer read the Booke, and therefore I am not able to
say what argument it holdeth, nor otherwise what
it concerns, which were behouefull to be knowne
to him that shal wttite a Preface : but the Title is e-
nough to grace the Booke, bearing the name of *the*
Queene of Nauarres Tales; whereby any man may
coniecture that the contentes are some pithie Dis-
courses, written for pleasure and recreation : and so
great a Princesse vouchsafing so to honour them
with her owne name, who can thinke but that the
pleasure is contained within the limits both of wit
& modesty? For the curious concited fellows that
liue now in the world, thogh not possest with any

A ij great

The Preface

great store of malice nor wit, but are yet of such a
finc iesting humor, that they wil dry-bob any man
that writes, of what subiect soever. In steade of a
Preface I will present them with a peece of an olde
tale, a fiction, and fained, I know not by whom;
but if the Author wil not be found, let me fater it
my selfe, the fable is this.

Nature hauing many yeaſe agoe ſo waſted her
treasures, in the perfiting of womans beauties, that
by her former prodigalitie, her perfections are ſo
consumed and ſpent, that the women of this age
are enforced to ſupply their defects by periwigſ &
painting, by bombaſting, and bolſtering, and ſuch
other artiſciall helps; the poore Lady (finding her
owne ſcarcitie, not able to performe that excellen-
cie, as before ſhe had done in the feminine ſex) de-
termineſ yet to make prooſe, and to tric her cun-
ning what ſhe could do in the muſcine. Vnder-
taking the task, with this ſetled curioſtie, ſhe pro-
portioned a man of ſuch excellent perfection in all
his limbs and lincaiments, that Nature herſelfe be-
gan to wonder at her owne worke: and as the curi-
ous Artiſcer, who thinkes his labor to be but loſt,
that is ſtill concealed and neuer brought to ſight,
ſo Nature bringing forth this ſuperexcellent per-
ſonage to be viewed, appointed him in ſuch a place
where the people of ſeueral Nations had their con-
tinuall recourse: the firſt that paſſed by was a Spa-
niard, who taking a full ſurvey of this new formed
man, crossing himſelfe, both his forehead & breast;
then throwing vp his handes with admiration to
the heauens, hee ſaide with a lowde voice; O moſt
glori-

The Preface

glorious & excellent creature in countenance, more amiable and louely than our lady of *Loretta*, in personage more comly than S. Iago of *Compostella*: but how shall I extoll thy prayles? my comparisons are too weake; I will therefore leau thee and blesse Nature, who hath blessed her selfe in featuring of thee. Nature that stooode fast by, where she might both heare and see, and yet vnscene her selfe, was wel pleased with this first salutation, and the Spaniard thus departed. The next that came by was an Italian, and he (as the Spaniard before, but with a little more circumspection) taking the view of this goodly creature, fell first into a fit of wondering; from that, into an extasic of praising, then to protesting, that for a thousand duckats hee woulde not haue his wifeto haue a sight of this temptation: and now he fell to swearing, that to preuent all perills, he would keepe her still lockt vp in a chamber; and thus he went his way. With this Nature smiled to see the passionate demeanor of the icalous headed Italian. And let it suffice that I deliuere (though not in this particular sort) how the people of sundry other Nations as they passed by, what praises and commendations they woulde all of them attribute to this handiworke of Nature, imputing it to bee without fault, blemish, imperfection, or any maner of defect: till at the last there fortuned to come by an Englishman, I think some of the same trauellng fellows whereof there are some; that running thoro w^t the world to seekc new fashions abroade, disclose al their wits that they carried with them from home; or perhaps it might be some worthy souldi-

The Preface

er, that if he hath but discharged a case of pistic-pots
out of a Gentlemans chamber, scene an Ensigne
three times spread in the field, puts himselfe by and
by into the arming doublet, the poyntes with the
great siluer tagges, tied in the pitch of the shoulder:
then at eucry word he must be caled Mas Captain:
then if hee haue but learned thus much of the new
Discipline, as to say, Double your Ranks on the
right hand, now againe as you were, double your
Files on the left hand, close your Ranks, open your
Files: why so, this is enough to make him able to
coosin an hundred and fiftie souldiers of their pay.
Now for table-talke you shal heare nothing out of
their mouths, but of the scaling of forts, the assaul-
ting of breaches, the taking of citidales, & by theyr
words they will seeme to vndertake the winning
of a greater towne than *Lysbourne*, but with dis-
charging two or three volies of oths. To conclude,
when they are angrie, there is nothing in their
mouches but the stab: and when they are pleased,
their greatest friendship is not woorth an ordinary
of eighteene pence. I speake not to preuidice anie
gentleman that hath travellid for his owne experi-
ence, whereof there bee many worthy of commen-
dations, nor to disgrace any souldier that is of de-
sert, whereof there are none but are worthy of ho-
nour: but I speake of those counterfeit Compani-
ons, that vnder these titles and pretenses do coun-
tenance themselues, taking authoritie to slander,
jest, scoufe, and find fault at any thing. One of these
priuiledged people now passing along the streete,
his gesture so gouerned as if he caried a whole com-

The Preface.

mon wealth in his head , his eyes so fixed as if hee
were in the meditation of his mistresse,his counte-
nāce so graced, as a man might see a dicker of fools
in his face, his salutation to such as passed by was a
nod with his head, and his hand clapt ouer his lips,
which they do call the *Bassiles manus*, his speeches
compendious and shorte, nothing but sentences:
this finicall fellow being now come to the place
where Nature was yet abiding, rejoycing to heare
herselfe so glorified for this excellencie of her work,
he began as the rest had done, to suruey euery part,
euery proportion and lineament , from the top to
the toe, he went about him, and round about him,
behinde, and before, prying, and beholding wyth
more curiositie than any of the rest had done before
him, and when he had lookt til he was wearie, said
neuer a word, but shaking a little his head was go-
ing away, till nature seeing this strange demeanor
called him backe, and in curteous sort demaunded
of him how he liked of the obiect , that hee had so
aduisedly perusid : to the which he answered; In
faith it is not to be misliked, it is a very goodly pre-
sence, hansome, comely, God had done his part, and
he saw nothing but the man was well inough. But
I pray saide Nature againe, what is it that you mis-
like? I perceiue by your speeches there is something
amisse, and therefore tell me what it is that you do
thinke might be amended . Gentlewoman (saide
he) seeing you presse me so farre, I wil deale plaine-
ly with you; the fault that I finde is this, It is pitty
that he is not an English man borne, but if hee had
beene an English man borne , I coulde then haue

com-

The Preface

commended these perfections, which I will nowe
forbear. And it is pitie (said Nature) that thou art
an Englishman borne; for if thou wert not an En-
glishman borne, I woulde so display thy imperfe-
ctions, which in regard of that renowned Nation
now I wil omit. This poore pedant meeting with
such a counter-buffe, thought it not good to fall a
scolding with a Gentlewoman, but caling her curst
queane, went his way scratching of his head. And
here an end of an olde tale.

Now M. Oxenbridge I wil direct my text again
to your priuate selfe, how shal you and I escape the
gentle frump from these same perillous conceited
fellowes, that will not omit to finde a fault at anie
thing, nor wil not forbear to breake a iest vpon
any man? mary Ile tell you how weeke stop their
mouthes if we can, we wil giue them the foole a-
forehand: I do not meanc to any friendly Reader,
that will sooner winke at a fault, than finde a fault,
but to these mungrell curres, that although they
cannot bite, will yet stand aloofe and barke. And
this *Misacmos* in his Apologie of Ajax saith is a fi-
gure, and he calles it *Prolepsis* or Preuention. Now
if we by giuing the foole aforhand, could preuent
them that they should not snarle at vs, twere a pre-
ty tricke. And why not? For now I remember me,
I knew the practise of it long before I knewe *Mi-
facmos*, and learned it of a Gentlewoman that had
borne a bastard before shee was married, who for
preuention sake would cal whoore first, & would
raise flaunderous reportes of euery other woman,
how honest soever, because she would brand them

all

The Preface

all with her owne marke. Call you this a Figure? No sir, it was wit, and I warrant you it proceeded from a very quicke conceit: as how? Mary shée would not venture vpon a husband, til she had made triall how she was able to endure the bearing of a child: for *Omnia probata wit trieth all things*. Sir, I do commend her for her wit; but by your leave, if my wife were but halfe so wise, I would thinke that a Carte were fitter for her than a Coach.

Well, I thankē you *Misacmos*, we haue made a little bold with your Figure, and I hope without offence; and I see preuention is very good, but I like not of his preuention, that being a knowne cuckold himself, and to preuent ill language, woulde hang hornes in the night at his neighbours doore: Like to a cuuning fellowe that I know, I will not say a Connie-catcher, but a scaulled squire named *Will Cogge*, a trencher scraping cullion but this other day, who in lesse then a yeares cogging (being skiltull in that facultie) hath got more, then nowe by his trade heele get these seuen yeeres. This Canniball (I say) in the night would hang vp horns at his neighbors doors, that they might seeme as shamefull to the worlde, as hee shamelesse: and nowe associating himselfe with one, a iolly fellowe, who though hee seeme to the view of the world (by the cariage of his body) a well accomplit K: at armes, yet otherwayes, but a paultry shifting wenching companion, when a man hath made the best of him; who because hee might not haue the maidenhead of his neighbors wife the first night, but Lache Drummers entertainment, after hee had shamefully demaunded it, runnes vp and dowe

B: (threat-

The Preface.

(threatening highly) in his hose and dublet like a male
stocleſſe man, with his collar turned downe round about his necke, making way for the halter, as one
that were going to be hangd, to mince them as small
as flesh to the pot. Well, birdes of a feather wil hang
together; theſe two, knaues I found them, & knaues
I leane them, and that is all the reckoning I make of
them. Well, let them which that are rubbed on the
gall, but if they kicke, I will stand aloofe and critie,
guppe olde Ladie are you coltish? And when I haue a
little laughed, I will leane my ſelfe to this oldt axi-
ome, Qui moccat moccabitur; the which in our mo-
ther tongue may thus be interpreted, ſince is a ſorid
Lady that hath never a Ioynter. Thus M. Oxen-bridge,
if you ſhall accept of theſe lines thus hauily i-
hatched, I hope the curteous Reader will not be of-
fended, and for the malitious I care not. Thus ſit
with my commendations to your ſelfe I ende.



The Queene of Nauarres Tales.

The first Nouell.

¶ Of a woman of Alancon that had two friends, one for pleasure, the other for profite, which caused one of them to be killed that first perceiued her deceit, for the which shee obtained a pardon both for her selfe and her husband that was fled, who after that to saue a pece of money wherein hee was condemned, sought counsell of a Coniurer; but his enterprize being discovered, they were both punished.



In the Towe of Alancon, in the time of Duke Charles that last deceased, there dwelt an Attourney that had married a gentlewoman of that countrey, more faire than honest; who by reason of her beauty, together with her lightenes, was greatly sought unto by a religious man, whose name I will conceale, for the reverence of their state, who so attaine to his desire, entertained her husband so wel, and bled him so friendly, that being blinded wuth simplicitie, could not perceiue the lewdnes of his wife; but which is more, caused him to forget the affection that hee alwayes had to the service of his master and mistris, in such sorte, that of a faithful seruant, he became so contrary, that in fine he sought by Coniuratiōns to bring the Dutchesse to her end. This priest lained long time, in that maner with this wicked woman, which obeyed

The Queene of

him more for desire of money than for loue , as also that her husband ceased not to incite her thereto. But there was a yong man in the said towne of Alancon , sonne to the lieutenant generall , whom she loued with so great affection , that for his loue she was in a maner halfe beside her wits . Wherefore in oftentimes she holp herself by the priests means , by sending her husband foorth , whereby hee beeing busied , shee might with better leisure visit the lieutenants sonne . This manner of behauisur continued so long time , that for her profit she entreated the priest , and for her pleasure received the other , unto whom she sware that al the entertainment she gaue unto the priest was only by that means freely to vse his companie , and that whatsoeuer passed betweene them yet she saide the priest had obtained naught of her but wordes , and that he might be wel assured , that never any man but himselfe should reape other pleasure at her hands . Upon a day as her husband went to see the priest , she asked him leau to goe into the countrey , saying that the aire of the citie was somewhat contagious for her : and being at her country house , she wrote unto the lieutenants sonne that he shoulde not faile about ten of the clocke at night to come unto her , which he failed not to doe : but at the doore he found the maid that vised to let him in , who spake unto him and said ; Friend , you must now go walke some other way , for your place is taken vp . Hee thinking her husband had bin come , asked her the cause : wherewith the poore maid pitcyng his estate , and perceiving him to be so faire , and honest a yong man , and one that loued so wel , and so little beloued againe , opened her mistris folie vnto him , thinking that when he understood thereof , hee woulde blame himselfe for louing so constancly . She told him that the priest was but newly come thither , and gone to bed to her mistris , whom at that time she looked not for , in that she had not appointed him to come before the next day ; but he having busied her husband about his affaires , was secretly come that night to visite her . If any man ever dispaire , assute your selues it was the lieutenants sonne , who for that time woulde scant belieue it . But

Nauarres Tales.

to trie the triall, he layed at a house hard by till he sawe the priest come sooth, not so wel disguised but that he knew him better than he would. In which dispayre bee went to Alanson, whiche, not long time after, his countrey friend returnd, who thinking to abuse him, as she had often done, went to speake with him : but bee saide shée was too holy (hauling touched consecrated things) to speake with him being so miserable a sinner as he was , whose reperiance was so great that he hoped it could soone be pardoned. When she perceiued her wanton life discouered, and that neither excuse, bathe, nor promise neuer to do it againe would aught preuaile, she made complaint unto the priest. And hauing consulted with him, went and told her husband, that shée coulde no longer stay in Alanson, because the lieutenants sonne whome shée accounted for her friend sought continually to dishonour her; whereupon she desired him to give her leaue to stay at Argenton, shereby to cease suspition : her husband that suffered himselfe to be ruled by her, yielded to her request. They were not long at Argenton, but this wicked woman sent woorde unto the lieutenants sonne, that shée thought him the wickedest man at that time living on earth , and that shée had heard that hee ceased not openly to speake evill of hit and of the priest, for the which shēe swore shēe would be revenged. The young man that never had spoken thereof but to her selfe , and that feared the priests displeasure, with two of his seruantes went strait unto Argenton, and found the woman in the Jacobins Church at euening prayere, where bee went and kneeled downe hard by her, and said unto her : Gentlewoman , I am come hither to processe unto you by the liuing God, that I never spake to any man of you to your dishonor, but only to your selfe, and yet you haue committed so heynous an offence in my behalfe, as I haue not vsed halfe so many malitious speeches in your behalfe as you deserue ; for if either man or woman will affirme that euer they heare ic from my mouth, I am come hither before your face to proove them liars . Shēe perceiving many people to be in the church, and that he was accompanied with

The Queene of

two lusty seruingmen, spake as softly as she could sayng thus
to him, She doubted not but he said the truthe, & that she com-
red him too honest to speake evill of any weman in the world,
Specially of her, being one that loued him wel, but shes saide
her husband had some inkling therof, wherefore shes desired
him that he would cleare himselfe before him, whereby he
might be thorowly perswaded of her honestie, which he agreed
unto; and thinking to bring her home, tooke her by the
arme: but she tolde him it was not good for him to goe with
her, for if he shold her husband would conceiue that shes had
caused him to come. And shrewhit taking one of his men by
the cloke, she said unto him, let your man goe with mee, and
when thine serueth, I wil send him to fetch you, meane time
goe you unto your lodgynge: bee not fearing her conspiracie,
went chicher, and she being at home made his man that went
with her to stay to supper, who demanded of her oftentimes
when he shold fetch his maister: she answered hee woulde
come time enough. When midnight came, she sent one of her
seruantes secretly to fetch him, who nothing doubting her pro-
tended mischiefe, went boldly to saint Aignans house, where
the gentlewoman staped his seruant, whereby he had but one
with him. And when he was at the doore, her seruant tolde him,
that his mistris woulde faine speake with him before her hus-
band, and that she staped for him in a chamber, only with his
owne seruant, saying he shold do wel to send his other home
which he presently did: and going upp a paire of darke staires,
the Attorney that had set men to watch in a chamber hard
by, hearing the noyse of his feare, asked who went there, and
it was told him it was a man that woulde secretly come into
his house. I wish that one Thomas Gagge a common mur-
therer, and by the Attorney bryed for the purpose, strooke so
many blowes with his sword at the poore young man, than
what defence soever he made, bee could not save his life, but
was presently slaine. His man that in the meane time was
talking with the Gentlewoman, saide unto her, I thinke I
heard my maister on the staires, I will go see. But she made
him

Nantes Tales.

Sir Ray and said; take you no care howe come soone enough.
But not long after hearing his master say, alas, I am dead;
Lord receive my soul; he said he would go help him; yet ther
full held him saying, doubt not, it is nothing but that my hus-
band hath taught him how to leare his youthfull cricks: let us
go see; and looking downe from the Maisters head, asked her
husband what the master was, saying, what haue you done? al
who replied, come downe and see. Nowe haue I revenged
you of hym that loughe you so much shame, & saying so, with
a poynard that he had, thrust ten or twelve blowes into his
belly being dead, that living he durst not assaile. After this
murther done, and that the dead Gentleman seruantes were
hoch stol, to certifie his father: the saide Aignan knowing it
could not be concealed, and that the Gentlemans seruantes
could not be allowed as witnessses in lawe, and that not one
man in the house had seene it done, but only she murtherer
an old maid, and a yong wench of fifteen peres olde, thought
secretly to take the old maid, but she found meane to escape
alas, and fled into the Takynys church, being the surest wit-
nesse to prooue the murtherer. The murtherer a time layd
within the house, but he found such meanes, that one of the
murtherers smiced her, and he falling in loue with her
to Paris, and there kept her in the common serues, by the
which meanes she was not a lawfull witnessse. And the better
to hide the murther, he caused the dead body to be burnt, and
the bones that were not consumed, to bee putte into a morters
and stamped to powder, sending in al haste unto the Count, to
alise a pardon, giving ic to understand, that he had oftentimes
forbidden his house to a certaine yong man, whom he suspec-
ted in his wifes behalfe, who notwithstanding was come
thicker by night, secretly to speake with her, and finding hym
at her chamber doore, more filled with rage than reason, had
slaine hym. But he could not so soone dispatch his letter to
the chancellor, but the Duke and the Duchesse by the father
of the dead man were certified thereof, who to stay his pardon,
wrot letters to the contrary. Whereupon the unhappy
witch

The Queene of

Sayng perceiving he could by no meane obtaine it, fles with
his wife, and divers of his kinred into England : but before
his departure he lay unto the murtherer, (who at his request
had done the deede) that he had received expresse letters from
the King to take him, and cause him to be hanged : but in re-
spect of the seruice he had done, bee saide he was content to
take his life, and therewch gaue him tenne crownes to fle
out of the realme, whiche he presently did, and never was
seen againe. But the murtherer was so well prooued and ma-
rched, not only by the seruants of the dead man, but by the
maide that saues her selfe in the Jacobing church, as also by
the bones found within the monaster, that in the absence of the
said S. Aignan and his wife, the proces was made and suid
against them, whereby they were boþ condemned by default,
and iudged to be hanged, their goods confiscate to the prince,
and xvij. crownes given to the father of the dead man, for
the chadge of the same. Meane time the said S. Aignan being
in England, and seeing that by course of law he was condem-
ned in Fraunce, did so much by his seruice unto divers Nobis-
men, as also by the meanes of his wifes kinred, that the
King of England wrote unto the king to grant him pardon,
and to comande him to his goodes and credite againe. But the
king having understande the behouynesse of the fact, sent the
copie of the proces unto the king of England, desiring him to
looke into it, and to consider whether such a fact deserved par-
don ; certifying him likewise, that the duke of Alencon one
had that privilege within his realme, to grant pardons for
all faults committed within his Duchie. At these exacles notwithstanding, the king of England did not content himselfe,
but wrote so earnestly thereto, that in fine at his request, the
Attourney obtained his pardon, and therewch returned into
Fraunce. But being at home, the better to accomfis his
iniquities, bee acquainted himselfe with a certaine conurer
named Gally, hoping by his meanes and diuellish art, to
be exempted from paying the said fifteen hundred crownes
to the dead mans father. Whiche to effect, he and his wife
went

Narratives Tales.

went disguised unto Paris, where his wife perresing her husband with the said Gallery told so long time shes hym into a chamber, and made not her acquainted with the cause, one morning she wacheth them, and saith Gallery them her husband five Images of wood, whereof three had their hands hanging downe, and two held up their hands, and speaking unto him said, we must make the like Images in waxe, and they that have their armes hanging downe, shall be the Images of such persons as we meane to consume to death, but those that hold them up, shall be for those of whom we meane to haue the fauour. Then the Attorney said, this shall be for the king, of whom I will be loued. And this for Monsieur Brion Chancellor of Alanson. Gallery said, you must set the Images under the alter where masse is usually said, with certaine wordes, which as then (said he) I wil cause you to pronounce: and speaking of the images that held their armes downe, the Attorney saide, that one of them was for Master Giles de Mefui the dead mans father, as knowing well, that as long as he lived, he would never leave the suer, & one of the images, made for women that had the armes hanging downe shall be (said he) for my Lady the Dutches of Alanson the kings sister, because she loued her olde seruaunt Don Mefui so wel, and to the contrary, knew so much of the attorney's villany, that if she died not he could not live; and the second image of a woman having the armes downward, he said was for his wife, as being cause of all his mischiefe, being well assured, she never would amend her life. When his wife that saw all this through the key hole of the doore, understood he placed her among the dead, thought it better to see him chid her first: so that making as though she went to booke moneys of her uncle, being maister of Requests unto the Duke, shewed him what she had heard and seen by her husband. Her uncle like a trusty old seruitor to the Duke went into the Chancellory of Alanson, ministering him therof: and because the Duke and the Dutchesse of Alanson were not at that day at the Court, the Chancellory went and tolde it to the

The Queen of

the King Regent (the quiete mother); and M. de la Vieuville, Dauphin, who specially served the queen of Paris, and the Duke of Berri, who ministered unto her; when he came to the court of the Queen of Navarre, he was received with great honour, and the Queen of Navarre sent him to the Queen of France, to inform her (and some of the Courtiers) of their malice, that by their incitation, the King (knowing his own infidelity, and the consequence of his action) had sent his son to the Queen of Navarre, commanding that in gentle terms he would give him an audience; and when he had done this, he practised his own wile, to make the Queen of Navarre believe he had come to her to take the armes of her son, and to change the heraldry forming his coat of armes, which was grained with a lion rampant, so that he and the Queen were sent to Paris, where he was sent to the galley of Sainte-Geneviève, where he lay there bound in great mortallity, and therby was constrained to confess his abominatione, the great malice of the Queen; and the Queen to whom he was sent to do audience of her husband, sent him with these words, when he came to her before, and said unto her, "I am sorry for you, and for your son, that you have beene so ill used, and that you are bound." **The second Novel.**

The painful and chaste death of the wife of one of the Ministers of the Queen of Navarre.

There dwelt in the towne of Amboise a minister of the Queen of Navarre, who served the Queen of Navarre, father to the King of France, the French king, whose wife was the Queen of Navarre, daughter of a forme within the City of Blois, in which the said minister dwelt in a certaine towne quarens-moyne, leaving his wife at Amboise following on, and the King caried her away for want that of long time had so desirably loued his wife, that upon a certayne day he could no choose but thorow his wifte to have a boozing amboise woman, took her by the hand, that she durst not reprehend him,

Maureris Tales.

him, but determined to cause her husband to beat him. So her husband after divers humours to speake faire her, or else faire any countenance therof, keeping it secret in his heart untill such time his master was gone abroad, and his mistris in the choyces (a church belonging to the castle), and standing faire from thence he beganning to murmur. And be being at home without company, it came in his minde to seeke that by force and violence, which by prayer and seruise he could never obtaine, and contray to his wifes planke out of the wall, betweene the chamber of his mistris, and that where he lay, whiche he callde the faire nicher, as wel of his master and mistris, as of the seruantes on the other side stondre close unto the wall, could not be perceived, whereby his wicked迫切e could not be espied. Still upon a time, she being infidell with a young knyght of clene oþerlyke, twelve yeares old, and in her first sleepe, this knyght in his shirt entered through the faire hole into the chamber with his naked swerd in his hand; but as soone as he felde him by her, she quickly sprang out of the bed, dissuading him by all meanes and exhortations, that possibly an honest woman could devise; but he that had caught her basly done, and better understood in the spules language, than her honest reasons, shewed himselfe baslier than those baslas with whom he had long continued: for perceiving that she camme so fast about a table that he could not have his will, and also that she was so strong, that she had twice loosed her selfe out of his bands, being in dispaire never to haue his pleasure while she lymed, gave her a great blowe upon the reines abounding, that if neither feare nor force could make her yield, yet paine would doe it; but he found the contrary, for that custome as a good soldier, perpetuating his blood, is thredy more moved to revenge himselfe, and winne his honour, so her chaste heart infyced her much more to runne and flye out of the valaines bands, alwaies giving him the fairest troys he could, thinking by such meanes to make him knowe his fault: but to the contrary he was so iutious, that by no means he wold be ruled by her good counsel, quiting her divers other blowes,

The Queen of

which she dropp'd, she never ceased to runne, as long as her strength would holde. But in the end, when with the loss of somme blood the fether death appoach'd, lifting her eyes to heauen, and holding up her hands, shee recorde thankes to God, whom she named her force, her vertue, her patience, and her chasteitie, beseeching him to accept that blood (which to obey his commandement) she then had had in reuerence of Christ, Jesus his sonne; wherby shee souldly beloved all her sinnes to be sanguinen; and saying, Lord receive the soule that by thy mercies hath fresshly beeorne remorded, shee fell with her face upon the ground, and being fallen, the wicked wistrate gave her divers blows; wherwith having lost her speech, and strength of body failing, the wistrate tooke by force that which shewes for want of strength could not defend. And having satisfied his filthy lust, fled so hastily, that never after (what meane soever was thought) he could be found. Meane time the young wench that lay with the Souldiers wife, with feare crept under the bed: but perceiving the man to be gone, came out, and finding her master to be without either speech or feeling, shee cried at the windowe to the neighbors round about for helpe; whereat such as loued and liked her well came presently unto her, bringing Surgeons with them, and found shee had receyved nine and twenty deadly wounds upon her body, which, as much as in them lay they sought to heale; but all in vaine: nevertheless, shee languished without speech in that sorte for the space of one whole houre, moued her handes, and eyes, wherby she shewed not to have lost her memorie; and being by a priest examined of her faith, she made thereof sufficiente signs, as that by word of mouth she could not have done better, shewing that her trust was in the death of Jesus Christ, whom she hoped shortly to behold within his heavenly seat: and sa with a cheerefull countenance, her eyes looking vp to heauen, she recorde her chaste body unto the earth, and her soule unto the Lord: and being taken up, and her bodie woundes set before the doore, craptig for compaunce to bring her to her graue, her husbande comande to come home, where

he

Neuantes Tales.

he left his dead wife standing at the doore before he strangled
her of: and having inquired of the cause, had double reason
to be grieved therat, whereby he fell so sick, that hardly he
escaped death. In this manner that martire of chasteitie was
buried in saint Florentine's Church, whiche all the honest
wives within the towne failed not to beare her company, least
counting themselves most happy to be of such a towne where
so vertuous a woman was found: and therewith those that
were not so wise, but lighter of behaviour, seeing the honours
done unto that body, determined from that time forwarder to
change their wicked lives.

The third Nouell.

A King of Naples abusing a Gentleman's wife, in the
end ware hornes himselfe.

Beaute Gentlewoman (saide Saffreda) I
have often wished my selfe to be companion in
the fortune of him, whereof I meane to speake:
I will shew you that in the citie of Naples in
the time of king Alphonsus, whose lasciuious
life was hid Scepter, there was a Gentleman so honest, faire
and courteous, that by reason of his perfections an olde Gen-
tleman gaue him his daughter in mariage, that so beautifull
and good grace was nothing inferior to him, who loued well
together, vntill shrowdise affer, that the King in masking
wente from house to house to spox himselfe, wherein eache
man enforced themselves, to honour him as they could: and
when he came to the Gentleman's house, he was received and
entertained much better than else-where, as well with ban-
quets, as with musike, and the fairest wife (in his mind) that
ever he had seene, who after the banquet was noone, she and
her husband sang a song with so good grace, that it increased
her beuty: wherwith the king perceiving the perfections in

The Queen of Naples

and sheweth not so much delight in their pleasant hours
as in devising how to breake cheareys : but the difficultie he
founyd was the great and perfect loue he founyd to be in them
which mad him heare that passion in his minde so secretly
as he could ; but to ease himselfe he caused certayne banquets
to be made, for all the Ladies and Gentlewomen within the
City of Naples, where the Gentlemen and their wifes were
not forgotten. And because a man is easilie indued to be
loue when soever he falleth, it seemed the Gentlewoman did
remoue him some good fortune, if the husband at the same
were no hinderance thereto : and to prove it, he sent her hus-
band for 15. dayes or threeweekes on message unto Rome,
who was no sooner gone, but his wife that never had bin so
long without his company, made exceeding sorow : but be-
ing in his absence often visited by the king, as time and de-
sire serued, both with faire speeches, presents, and kindly
gifes, she was not onely comforted, but well content her hus-
band shold stay longer : and before the threeweekes ended,
wherinde he shold returne, she warkyd so amonge all the king-
that she was as much grieved at his comming againe, as she
had bee sorowefull for his going. And not to losse the
presence of the king, they agreed that when her husband were
into the country, she would make it known to him, whether
he might assuredly come to her, and so secretly, that the man
whome she feared more than her owne conscience, shold noe
be hurt : in hope wherof this Gentlewoman was ioyfull, so
that at her husbands returne she seemed very glad, wherof al-
though he heard that in his absencys, the king had often visited
his wife, yet he suspected no ill, but in process of time, that farr
so hardly to be couered, beganne by little and litle to shew in
such manner, that the husband in thend doubted some detrac-
tion, keeping so good watch, that he was therof assured, but by rea-
son of the feare he had of him, that did him iniury, he made no
dram therof, determining to dissemble, as desirous rather to
live in secret griefe, than once to hazard his life for a woman
that had no loue in her, & nevertheless, in shewdespite her
thought

Narrative Tales.

thought compelle her like unto the king; if possibly being by
and knowing the office of a prince or springe maner, more to be
moyt than howe specially such as (myght auoyntes) and be
wroth blemishes, but being in the querten yeres was so bold
to saye to her selfe that it perteyneth to her to sette her selfe before
one of the thre kynges of the world. But he comande the Queen
chucke to the lond to the kyng, bare to his wifer, answered hym
and said, I geve you goodly herte and pleasure at sometime,
I knoue al hym in somme, but moche rarerly the pleasure,
and shal haue no greate pleasure yett haue she vnoynt bonour the
kyng ther had hym to the kyng tyme spedly, as for to
bewantinge expensyng yowre bonour processys from birth
as beynge of xviij yeres, shal abygore comfayntement yowre
glorie, But yowre highnesse beynge grave, and honeste, haeth
ferred so muche pitefary, that the whiche deale thys from yow
that is yowre wif, doethes fulfylle to yowre chayre yowre kyng, that
folow certeyn glorie, which cometh to Chayre, Queenes fayre and
muche plesance to yowre amyghty wif, And to yowre wif, in clysternement
kyng, That shal be yowre glorioust and velyngthe of the kyng
yeould haue yowre name assynt, And halfe the kynges heire and
waise to myn herte to yowre wif, being well affred
byer of that kynges chayre, Our yowre kyng our self, is trouly
be betwixt yowre chayre and kyng of yowre compayson. The quene
laughting and sayng of al this, and her greate laughting wryghtly
be of mery wif and compayson yowre kyng folle, But thinke this
lond he dooth in yowre chayre more to welly, that I preferre
the same, befor all other chayres. The Gentleman spake
word to her, I am to say, you warden nos picclement
for her of any greate say, that the kyng comfaynteth in
your beare wifer of her yowre kyng, more contemnable, If i ferme
the kyng comfaynt the kyng, but ther beyle well plesyd to a kyng
wife, For then that yowre kyng comfaynteth in him which yowre
kyng, you Queene not ferme for yowre kyng on earth. So I have
you, fair Queene, the kyng I blare blare for greate chayre
no womanis herte but merte of her to be ferme in. I haue
the kyng comfaynt the Queene, You Queene not ferme will haue
the

The Queen of

the love of all mens hearts : for this I will tell you, there is
one more worthy you; whose love is so impossiblye that yours
in this respect must be compared ; and for that he seeth the
Kinges love much querched towards you, his work to search in
crease, that if you like chyzerf, you shall be satisfied for all your
yours self. The Queen therewith begane as wel by enta
ching Grace, as by my selfe, to shew him speech proceded
from me, and nothinge to mind, that of long time he
sought to do her service, with such affliction, that he twelue
yeare had ankyly, which were reffred because of his han
wif, who was dead before he falleth. It was for the loue of
her, as also for her selfe affayre, which made her selfe fayre, not
beinge alone, affayre her of thon which no man else coualeith.
Now consideringe the Gentleman to be of greater beautie than
the sunne, reuying him selfe cast off by his wif, as she
was aduertisynge, beinge by her with despise and ielouie of her
husband, and loued with the loue of the Gentleman, with
such force to drapp out other ayres, sygning shes speche and
fafe, I saye nowe reuyng of honyng iaphabet in me, which
Ione could never hit. Whiche the Gentleman bearing, answere
to her this fafe : Ssydam, the reuenge is easie to him, that in
spite of killing his enemye greate he to a perfect friend : me
doubtynge in none that truch shoulde take from you the fouldre
that you be are to bind that loue you not againe ; and that
the knyght and reuengeable Ione shoulde myne that feare out of you
armes, whiche menes can remayne within a berynys bayt. Dose
your selfe by lyp assyse the greatness of your state, and con
fess not seluer to be the man and wife in this twylle, most
trouthe and tragey of thole the heauly loued : let her red
emerge out of her. (good sydam) mat so muche to gyne them
thyselfe, and to sacrifice the loue which on my behalfe can no
longer be forþorne, unles it call me my life : and this I think
if your heart be not hardened more than a Diamond, it is im
possible you shoulde not seeke some spake of fire which increas
eth in multe more, as I seeke to couer it, if pyc of me, which
for poysoning Chilbit, cannot moue you to helme me, at leaste
the

Nouuares Tales.

the loue of your obayng selfe shoulde conserue you shercrafts,
who being so perfect, deserve the heires of all the honest
Gentlemen in the world: being despised and forsaken of hym
for whom you have disdained all the rest.

The queene bearing these words was therewith in such a
triste, that fearing once by countenance to shew her troubled
minde, and leaning on the Gentlemanes arme, went into a
garden adioyning to her chamber, where shee walked long
before that shee comblitter any word, but the gentleman per-
ceyting her to be halfe wonne, being at the Elles end where
no man could discouer what they did, sheld her by effect the
loue he had so long conceald from her, & finding themselues
to be of one consent they tooke revenge in that, whereof the
passyon seemed inollerable, and there they did agree, that as
often as he went into the Countrey, and the King into the
Towne, he would not faile to come unto the Castell to see
the Queene, and in that maner deceyving the deceiuers, they
shulde be foure participants of that pleasure which two alone
thought anely to myope: this agreement made, the gentle-
man returned home, and the Queene into her Chamber,
with such contented mindes, that all their former griefe was
cleane consumed, and the feare that each of them myght haue
of the Kings repaire unto the gentilwoman, was wholy tur-
ned to deare, which caused the gentleman oftener to go (then
he hadde vsed) to his countrey house, being but halfe a mile from
thence. Whiche the King no sooner knew, but he went to see
the gentilwoman; and the gentleman when night came went
likewise to the Queene, as lieutenant to the King so secre-
ly, as it never could be spied: which life continued long, not
withstanding the King, being no common person, could not
so well dissemble his loue, but that the world perceiued it
full well, whereby all honest men tooke pitie of the gentle-
mans estate in that same bad compaynions refrained not to
mocke and scorne him, which he perceiued wel, where with he
was so well content, that he esteemed his hornes as much as
the King esteemed his crownes. Who on a tyme being with
them

The Queene of

France (which hee had before him) and spake to him (saying that hee was
come to see the Kinges house) to smile before him, sayng
gentlemen (such a man became the house full well). But the gentle-
man in courage not inferior to the Kinge swete over the
best shewing, I bearre these boynes as every one may see, but
some do depre them that belike it is not. And when the Kinge
came thither againe, and found the same boynies there in the
chamber, hee tolde the gentleman the meaneing thereof, who made him
say so. If the Kings secret be hidden from the heart, it is no
reason why the herte shold be declare to the kinge: but comy-
sent p[er] son [per] lufe (sayng Loze) said he, that all shold which have
boynes goe bare head, so that they are thought, that they
knowe no man, and beare them lightly than thikke
by both men. The Kinge knew wel by these wordes that somy-
what was misconected, yet never suspected the issue between
the queene & him: for that the more the queene contended her
selfe with the kings behauoir, so much the more she reme-
died discontent, whereby long time they liued in that sort, on all
successe, until by age they were constrained to leane of paule:

The fourth Nouell. The rafth enterpris of a Gentleman towards a Prin-
cess of Flanders, with the shame and discredite hee
shaped thereby.

SHE dwelt in the country of Flanders a Ladie
of such state as better there could not be: a widow
of two brothers, by whom she had no children,
whereby her younger widowhode she continued
in her brothers house, of whome she was well beloved, be-
ing a great Lord and baron to a kings daughter. This
young ouster was much gruered vpon his pleasure, to bring hys
yong daughters, and company of Ladys, as youth requireth,
to bring a wife to troublsome and melancholy, that her hands

Nature's Tales.

lande plasures were up vnto her at her wylle. Wherefore she said Lord Shalles worth his litters pietee, being a pleasant Gentleman, and the best companion that might be found, yet very wise and of great honestie. There was in this same London bounden Gentleman, whose port, Beaulte, and good behauing, surpassid al the rest of his companions. This gentleman perceiving her sparses of shynesse, and Gentlewoman addiccion muchly, and alwayes pleynly thoughte it ffit, if shewing her with the choice of all honest friend would be offend her, which he vnde, but founde contrarye answere to her minnes. Then: altho shalld her onselfe have such an honeste and honest woman, and so great a pietee, yet perceiving him to be so faire, and courteous withall, she easilys forgave his bold attempte, shewinge by outward countenance not to be displeased with him, in speaking unto her, tellynge her howe she lesse, that he before was nothinge but thynke moray her, any more therin whiche he promised to doffre, therby not to losse the honur and contentmente her selfe in her spak-
king to her. Item therelasse in time his affection so much increased, that he cleane forgot her former promise, nor that he soughte to hazard it by woords (as hawking ouermarch, and soye against his will tried her wile denall) but thinking if he could find her in some place convenient, that shalld beeing a wooman, young, lusty, and of good complexion, would possiblly take partie of them both. Whiche to effect, he saide vnto his master, that not far from his house, he shalld finde good scope of game, and that if it pleased him to goe thither to hunte three or four dayes, in the moneth of Mai, he shalld not finde a pleasant sport elsewhere. Whiche the Lord, as well for the loue he bare unto the Gentleman, as for the pleasure he usually took in hunting, agreed unto: going unto his house, whiche he founde, not onely faire, but excellently furnished, as any Gentlemane within that country, where he lodges the lord, and his lady in one chamber, and in another chamber right oueragainst where he places her whom he loues better than himselfe. The chamber being so wel hangid with arras, both

The Queens of

stand about and over head, and so well mounted, that it was
impossible once to perceive a trap doore, hidden behind that
which led him into the chamber where his mother lay, being
an old Chamberwoman, and somewhat lame, who by reason
of herough, fearing to disase the principall that lay in the
chamber over her, changed chambers with her sonne, and
every night after supper this old Chamberwoman brought
candles into the Daunes chamber, wherat the Chamberman
was absent, who being well alow'd, and set set with her by
her, was not excluded from her when she visite her sonne,
whom he went to her, where still he found occasion to anga-
ge his loues, and such maner that one night after he had
kept the Chamberlaine so long time, that studing that
she, railed him to retire, he went into his chamber, and ha-
ving put on his best and best perfumed shooe he had, with a
right confidencie and certeyn, it seemed to him (in looking on
himselfe) that no man in the world could stand in his
doore to refuse his loues, wherefore perswading himselfe
a happy successse, he went to bed, wherein he lay vntill long
by reason of the chalenge he had fould to obtaine at last more
honorable fayre, and perwining sent his seruants forth, to seeke
the same Chamberlaine, if he could heare any thing in the
night to comforte his loues, for they wll assured that every man wll
be bold to say he had his long desired trame to effecte by
hooke and kynde letting vpon the trap, which being so well
trappen and laced with cloch, made no cry, nyscumbre his
lame amies. Up the Chamberlaine kept from the next chamber,
and to her son. (who as then he gaue to sleep) notwithstanding
her being lame, the poore wifes eyen betwix them were respre-
sing her high parentage, where without reverence vpon
allong leane he lay downe by her, who farrer felte her selfe beset
then her amies. Chamberlaine perceaved his comming, but
she being lame, took her besyde, and asking what he wll
begun to scold soone stike, smite, and scurly, that for the scand
he had she shoulde cry out. he was congeined to smite
her mouth, which newrshelde he coulde not doe; so that when

Maurer's Tales.

The spirello he spared not all meanes to force her to his wench.
She spake not againe to keep him from it, calling her limiting
gentlewoman as lowe as possible for combe, that stode within
her chamber, a small & courteous lady as any could be found
whiche in her smocke came stond unto her mistres. But when
the gentleman perceiued himselfe discovered, he was in so
great feare to be knowne unto the lady, that he as great hast
as he could he got down by the trap, and so with as much des-
cline and hope as before he had to be received, with much more
fear and depe dispaire he was gladd to goe away, and take-
ing his glasse in hand, having a candle upon the table, he be-
held his face by her all bloody, scrotheren, and bisten, where-
up the blood ranne downe vpon his sherte, in such manner, that
it appeared more bloody than vpon golt. Wherefore
with he said: O deuyt, thou notablest within thy selfe, remembry-
ng by thy bothe promise, I haue entrepyned a thing impossib-
le, which in kinde of increasing my desire, may be a strong rea-
soning of my griesse: being hauised, right if thou daidest
perceiue that contrary to my promise. I haue engorged this
folie, I shal not only lese my honestie, but the day frequen-
tation wil habbe, that more than vider. I shal haue had
that whiche my glasse sheweth, & good grace haue well deserued.
Through no notice to euer, but to vchenre her long, I shoulde
not so haue ben troued yll to force her shalte my princely body,
but rather by true seruice, & humble patience attend the tyme
when due, might be victorious, because that without all the
perilous, & foyles of man can haue no assaile. In which doot he
pulled the night in tears, sighs, & grieves vnypossible to mether:
& in the morwing perceiuing his face al manghen, he fained to
be sicker, and not able to endure the lights, til al the compaige
was gone. Wherby that had wonne the victorie, knowing
that no woman in her brothers house, durst once attempt
such an enterprise, but onely he that haue so boldy opened
his boord unto her, persuaded her selfe assuredly it was her
brother and having with her a gentlewoman sought rounde al
about the chamber, to see if they coulde finde him, in a great

The Queenes of

rage the said. After your selfe this is not done but smot
by the maister of the house ; but in the moring I will se deale
with my Lord my brother ; that with his heade he shall wi-
nelle my chafftie. And whiche his fume the gentlewoman per-
ceyng, said : Madam, I much reioyce at the great care you
have vnto your honouer, which to my greate, you woulde no
spare the life of him, that by the force of lawe hath hazardd
himselfe, but oftentimes there are such as sooke to men alial
to the contrary to diminish it : wherefore Madam I beseeche
you not to disclose the trouth. And when the kyndesse had
told her how it happened, the Gentlewoman said vnto her :
Now I shalbe affurth me that he obteyned a newghe of you
but bloudnes and crachtes. Of that I assure you said she, and
in such manner, that if he found not a good surgeon, I think
the markes will easly appearre. Madam seeing it was so, said
the Gentlewoman, then thinketh you haue moe occasion to
praise God, than to think on your revenge: for you may well
apprefche, saing he haue so good courage to enterpise such
a thing, then the despight he bath receiued in failing thereof, I
you cannes giue him amy death, that would not be much easie
to bryng him. If you desire to be cruenged on him, let loue
and Spouse amake which knotte bosome to torment him, becom-
than your selfe, and doe it for your honouer; but more Madam,
I say no fall into the like ; for that i liue to obtaine the grea-
test pleasure that he could devise, he bath receiued the most ex-
treme displeasure that amy gentleman can haue. And you ma-
nam, thinking to increase your honouer, may thereby diminishe
the amyng complaint thereof, make that knotte, that
naturall man knowe before : for by him you may be hel assau-
red it never shalbe revealed : and say my Lord your brother
would do that justice you require, and chech by the power god
deman toaste his life : yet the common woorke would be, that
he haue his strake of you : and agaynde men shalbe not shamed
to say, It is impossible for a gentleman to overcomme such a
thing, unless the kyng haue graun him greate occaſion. More
and more bold, strong and faire, living mercifull in compaigne of thise

Narrative Tales.

for your judgment in the Court but seek wel what fauour god
sendeth him whome you suspecce, which will make all men
iuge, that if he hath enterprised such a thing, it was not done
without some fault committed on your behalfe. And your
spouse, which hitherto hath haue you bold your head aloft,
fayllyng that iustnesse be brought in question whatsoeuer it
shall be knowne. The ladye her selfe hearing the good venson at-
leaged by her gentlewoman, knew well the false the wryt,
and that with good reason shée shoulde bee blamned, consider-
ing the private and good countenance she haue alwayes ge-
uen unto the gentleman, asked her what she were best to do,
who answered her, and said: madame, seeing it pleases you
to heare counsell, perceiving from what affection it proceed-
eth, that thinke you shoulde be myr at your hant to he, that
the fairest and honestest gentleman that euer I haue, could
reached by loue nor force, make you dishonour your selfe,
Mistress madame, you oughte thankie God, acknowledging
it not to be doone of your selfe, for that many women,
leaving faire more stricte liues then you, haue beene
couert and vanquished by men little worthy to be loued then he
is, and you ought now ridde when you haue aduantage from hearing
any discourses of loue, because answere there are, whiche haning
anoynted the firme occasion, yea in the seconde codice not rellied.
Remember good madame, that loue is blind, and blindest
men in such sorte that where men thinke the way to be most
safe, there commonly their feete doe soonest slip. And me
thinkest madam that you ought neither unto him nor any o-
ther make it knowne, and though he would remembred you
thereof, yet might you as though you knewe it not, thereby to
auoide all dangers that either, the one of vanite gloriy, in re-
spect of the blencyour name had, the other in calling thinges
certained that are to pertaine to the field, that most chaste per-
sons haue much to do to keepe themselves from some sparks
thereof, although they shunne them as much as in them lieth.
And further (madam) to the end he shall not thinke that he
hath hazarded a thing which might content or please you: I

The Queene of

am of this opinion, that by little and little you shal withdraw
the good countenaunce you haue used towardes him; to aler
end he may perceiue how much you dislike of that his follie,
and how great your goodnes is, in contenting your selfe with
the victo: that God hath giuen you, without requiring fur
ther revenge of him. And I beseech God madam (said she)
giue you the grace to continue the honestie he hath put into
your heart; and knowing that all goodnesse commeth from
him, you may loue and serue him better than ever you did be
fore. The princesse therewith determined to folow her Gen
tlemans counsell, and thereupon slept with as quiet and
glad a mind, as the gentleman to the contrary waked in great
mildeare. The next day the Lord would ride away, and alia
for his holt, who was cretisid he was so sickle that he could
not indure to see the light, or speake to any man; whereat the
prince was much abashed, and woulde haue seene him, but
knowing he tooke his rest, would not distaste him, & so with
out bidding him farewell, departed from his house, taking
both his wife and his sister with him: who understanding the
gentlemans excuse, that wouldest not see the prince, nor yet his
company before they went, was well assured it was he that
so had troublid her, not daring to shew the marks he had set
upon his face: and although his maister sat often for him,
yet wouldest not returne unto the Courte, before bee had per
fittly healed all his wounds, except that onely which loue and
despight had made within his heart. But when he went unto
the prince, and that he found himselfe before his victorius en
emy, he could not chuse but blush; and he that of all others
had bin most aduenturous, was so astonished, that oftentimes
in her presence he was abashed, whereby she assurid her selfe
their suspition to be true, and by little and little estranged her
selfe from him, not so couerely, but he perceived it well, yet
durst not be seene thererin, fearing to haue worse, and kepe
his loue within his heart, with the patience of nightwatching
it, which he had well deserved.

The

Natantes Falce.

The first Nouell.

¶ Of a Watermans wife that escaped from two Friars
that woulde haue forced her, and wrought in such
manner that their fact was discouered.


At the port of Cullen hard by Ryppe, there
was a woman that both night and day did
continually haire men ouer the water, where
it happened two friers to passe ouer in her
boat, and no other company with them: and
so because that it is one of the longest pas-
sages in France, to the ende they might keepe her from
uenturall, they mouned her with loue, wherim she answ-
ered them as she ought to doe. But they not being wentis of
the way, neither yet by reason of the colones of the water, or
impiching a strok, nor at the womans demaund once seemed ab-
sute, each of them determined to force her, and if shee cried
out, to cast her into the riuere: but she being as wil and fattle
as they malicious fooles, spake vnto them, and said: I am
not altogether so uncurteous, as outwardly I shew; but first
I would desire you to graunt me two requestes, whiche done,
you shall well perceiue that I haue better wil to obey you
than you desir. With that the friers swore vnto her by their
yeads. Frauncis, that whatsover shee askes of them shal
should bee sure to obtaine, so they might haue their vise. Then
said she, I wil haue you swearre and promise me of
your fauours, never to make it knowne to any man but your
fathers, which they willingly perelved vnto: and then she said
that they shoulde take their pleasures one after an other, for
that said she I shoulde be much ashamed that any man shoulde
ooke vpon me while I did it, wherefore saide she, cast lottes
betweene you who shal first begin. They saw her requestes so
reasonable, the yonger frier consented that the elder shoulde be
first, and apportioning betwee an Island she laid vnto the yonger,
þay you here in this Island till I haue carried your fellowise
into an other Island, and if at his returne hee doe like well

The Queene of

of me, we wil leau him here, and goe to an other place with you. Wherewith the younger Friar leapt into the Island, staying the returne of his companion, whome the woman brought into another, & being at the shore, making as though she tied the boate, sayde vnto him: Friend, looke what place we were left to go into, wherewith the good father lepte into the Island, to finde convenient place, and he was no soone on land, but he givynge a thwak with her soote against a tree, made her boate to gine backe into the rimer, leauing the two holy fathers in the Isles, to whom she cried as loud as ever she could, and sayde: Stay there my masters till God sende his holy Angell to comfort you, for of mee, as this day, you get not any thing that may content you. The two poore friers perceiving her deceit, kneeled downe vpon the shore, desiring her not to diseredite them, promising her, if that bee would carry them to the hanen, they woulde not trouble her: but she rowing on, sayd vnto them: I might well be counted a foole, hauing escaped your hands, to put my selfe into your dangers againe. Which done, returning to y^e village, she called her husband & the officers, desiring them to helpe to take two great devouuring wolves, from whom (by Gods helpe) she had escaped. They being well accompanied, went thither, for that neither great nor little within the vilage, but was desirous to bee partaker of that spoyle. The two poore friers perceiving so great a company comming to them, hid themselves in the Isles (like Adam from the presence of God) shame setting their sinnes before their eyes, and feare of punishment made them so tremble, that in a maner they were halfe dead. But that kept them not from being taken and led to prison, nor without great shouting & crying of the people: some saying, these good fachers preach chositly vnto vs, yet woulde besile our wines: and her husband sayde, they dare not handle money, and yet will handle our womens shinges, which are more dangerous. Others sayd, they are sepulchres all beautified without, and inwardly filled with dead and rotten diseases. And others cried, and sayde, that

by

Nauarres Tales.

by their fruices men might perceiue what vices they were. So that you must beleue that all the passages which are found to be in the holy Scriptures against hypocrites, were alledged against those poore prisoners, that by the gardiens meanes were succoured and delivred: who in great bate came thither to fetch them, assuring the officers, that hee would vsse greater iustice against the, then the secular Judge could do. And to satisfie the partie, he protested they woulde say as many prayers for her as she woulde desire: whereupon the Judge granted him his request, and delivred him the prisoners, that were so well schooled by the gardien (being an honest man) that never after they passed ouer the riuer without making the signe of the holy crosse, and committinge themselves to God.

The sixt Nouell.

The subtiltie of a woman, that found meanes to let her friend escape, when her husband (having but one eye) thought to surprise him.



Here was an olde seruant of the chamber to Charles last duke of Alanson, that had lost one of his eyes, and was married to a woman much yonger then himselfe, he being by his master and mistresse as well beloved as any man of his estate could be, whereby he had no meanes to visite his wife so oft as willingly he woulde, which was the cause that he forgot both honour and conscience, and fell in loue with a yong gentleman, which in fine was so well knownen, that at length her husband was aduertised: whiche he woulde not beeleeue, by reason of the great and outward signes of loue his wife did shew unto him. Neuerthelesse, one day thinking to finde it out, and if he could, to be revenged on him that did him wrong, he fained to goe into the countrey not ferre from chence, where he sayde, he must stay at the leaſt two or thre dayes. He being gone, his wife sent for her man, but he had not beeene with her above halfe an houre, when her husbande

Natarrer's Tales.

come againe, and in great hast knocked at the doore, which
for pettaining, tolde her friend, whereto he was so muche
hast, that hee wist himselfe in his moother's belly, and chid
both her, and Iane, that had brought him to that danger. She
had him take no thought, saying she would finde meane to
let him goe without shame or harme, willing him with all
speede to make him ready. Meantime the husband knocked
still at the doore, and called his wife as loud as ever he coulde,
but shewinge noisyness as if she knew him not, sayde unto her
servant, why doe you not rise, and make them leue their
noise, that knocke and call so busily at the doore? Is this a
time of night to come and knocke at honest mens doores? If
my husband were here, he would make you leue. The husbant
hearing his wife speake, called her as loud as he could,
and sayd, Wife, open the doore: will you let me stand heere
till it be day? And when she saw her friend was ready to ge
out, opening the doore, she sayde unto her husband: Oh husbant
husbant, how glad am I that you are come; for I had a strange
dreame, wherewith I was so well pleased, as possible might
be, because I dreamt that you had recovered y^e sight of your
sister, and thid that imbracing and kissing her, she tooke
him by the brane, and with one of her handes stopping his
goodeye, kylled him, doe you not see better then you mere
dowant to doe? and whil he coulde not see at all, she let her
friend go out. Whereof her husband doubted, and sayd: W^eare
W^eare wife, I will vixen watchpon againe, for that in thinking
thig to deceave you, I haue found the fynest subtiltie that euer
was in ventes. God amend you, for it is not in the power of
any man living, to ppeare the malice of a woman, valesse he
kill her. But seeing the good entretainment you haue had at
my handes, I coulde not procure you to amend, it may be, my
absence will force you thereunto. Which sayd, he went bis
way, and left his wife in great discomfyt, whiche intakes
of his kinsmen, friends, spouses, answares, lnes of him al
occurred againe.

The Queene of

The seventh Nouell.

A marchant of Paris deceiued the mother of his loue,

to couer their culpe.



In the citie of Paris there was a marchant
that loued a mayde that dwelt hard by him, &
to say the truthe, better loued of her, then the
of him: so that the shew he made to loue her,
was but to couer a moche honourable & harmo-
tie loue then hers. But she that was consent to be deceiued,
loued him so well, that she had wholly forgotten the maner
that women ought to use, in refusing men. This crafty com-
panion, after he had long time taken paines to goe to her, in
the end made her so sond, that shee ranne after him: which
her mother, being an honest woman, perceiving, wholly for-
bade her the company of that marchant, which if shee obser-
ued not, she layd shee would place her in a religious houle.
But the daughter that loued the marchant moche then shee
feared her mother, made moche of him then out the doore: and
one day being in a chamber alone, the marchant wenc in, who
fonding place conuenient, spake as secretly unto her as possi-
bly he might, but a certeine trappe seing him going in, wenc
and tolde her mother, who in great cholar ranne thither: and
when her daughter heard her come, shee wept unto the mar-
chant, and said, Alas my loue, now the loue I beare unto
you, shall be dearely bought, here comes my mother who will
surely knowe þ which she alwayes feared. The marchant that
therwith was not abashit, left her presently, and wenc to meet
her mother, and opening his armes, imbraced her as hard as
ever he could, and with cheape fury wherewith he used the
daughter, he threw the poore olde woman vpon a bed, who
found that maner of entretainment to be so straunge, that she
knewe not what to do, but onely to say, what will you haue?
What art thou madde? but for all that he left not off to handle

The Queene of

her in such sort as if she had beene the fairest mayde in all the world : and had it not beene that shee cried so loud, that both her men and mayds came in to helpe, she had past the same way which she so much feared for her daughter. Wherefore by maine strength they tooke the poore olde woman out of the marchants armes, without once knowing, nor yet could euer know, the cause wherefore he used her so. Meane tyme her daughter got into another house, wherein therewas a wedding, which time the merchant and shee did often call to minde, and laughed thereat, but to the oldewives cost, that never could perceue it.

The eight Nouell.

A certeine man hauing lier with his wife, thinking
she had bene his mayde, sent his companion thither,
that made him cuckolde, his wife not knowing
thercof.

In the countie of Ailler, there was a man called Bonet, that had married an honest woman, whose credit and reputation he loued, as all the husbands that are heere in place (as I think) do, and although he desired his wife shoulde be fauful unto him, yethee woulde not that the lawe (in that case) shoulde be equall to them both : for that hee became amorous of his mayde, in which exchange he feareth nothing, but that diuersitie of meats would not please him. He had a neighbour, of one condition, named Sandras, both a Dyer
maker and a Taylor, betwene whom there was so great familiaritie, that their wines onely excepted, their goods were in a manner common : whereupon hee shewed his friend the enterprise he meant to make vpon his mayde, who not onely liked it well, but to his power helpe to bring it to passe, hoping to haue some share therein. The mayd that would not consent thereto, perceiving her selfe so hardly followed,

shewed

Nauarres Tales.

shewed to her mistresse, desiring her to give her leue to go
unto her friends, saying she could not live in that sort. The
mistresse that loued her husband well, whom she did suspect,
being very glad to haue occasion thereby iustly to charge
him selfe unto her mayde, content your selfe, and hold
my husband with faire words, and in the end appoint him to
lie with you, but faile not at any hand to tell me certeynly the
night when the same shall be, and take heede that no man
knowes it. The mayd did as her mistresse had commanded,
whiche pleased her master so well, that hee went to tell his
friend, who desired him, that seeing he had bene a partner in
making the match, he might likewise haue some part of that
he left. The promise made, - and the time come, the master
went to bed(as he thought) with his maid, but she that had as
then renounced the authoritie of commaunding, for the plea-
sure to be a servant, had layde her selfe in the mayds bed, and
received her husband therein, not as a wife, but rather seem-
ed a bashful mayd, and in such maner, that her husband could
never perceiue it. I cannot tell you whiche of them was best
pleased, whether he in thinking to deceiue his wife, or she to
deceiue her husband; but when he had beene with her, not so
long as pleased him, but as he found himselfe able to beat
it out, being not altogether so stout a warrier, as otherwise
he had bene, he rose and went out of the house, where finding
his companion stronger and stonger then himselfe, tolde him
that he had found the best gowne that euer he saw. You know
sood his companion, what you promised me. Go then quick-
ly, sayd the master, lest she should rise, or that my wife should
call her for some busynesse. His companion went thither, and
found the same mayd there which the husband had mistaken,
who thinking him to be her husband, refused not whatsoeuer
he would aske: I means by asking, taking, for he durst not
speake. And there he stayed longer then the husband did be-
fore: whereat the woman wondred, for she was not moont to
haue such kinde of nighes: neuerthelesse, shee was content,
comforting herselfe with the speeches which in the morning

The Queene of

she meant to bise vnto him, and with the moucheris. About
breake of day the man rose vp, and in departing from her, bei-
ng disposed to play, by chance hee tooke a ring from off her
finger, which ring her husband gaue her when they married :
(a ring whiche the women of that countrey do keepe in great
solemnite, and honour much that woman which keepeþ her
ring vntill she dies: and to the contrary, if she chance to lose
it, she is discredited, as having giuen her faith vnto another
man besides her husband) Shee was content that he shoulde
take it, thinking that it would serue for a certayne token of his
late deceit. When the companion returned againe, he asked
him, what he had done, and how he liked the match: he tolde
him he was of his opinion, and that if he had not feared day,
he had not come as yet, wherewith as softly as they could
they went to bed. In the morning, as he made him ready,
the husband perceiued the ring whiche his companion ware
vpon his finger, in all points like to that whiche he had giuen
his wife when they were married; wherewith hee asked his
companion of whom he had it: but when he understood he had
snatcht it from the mayd, he was abashē, and began to leane
his brad against the wal, and said: Good God, haue I made
my selfe cuckolde, my wife not knowing it: his companion
to comfort him, spake & sayd, It may be, your wife when she
went to bed, gaue your mayde the ring to keepe. With that
the husband went into the house, where he found his wife, fair-
er, tiner, and merrier then usually she had bee, as she that
much rejoiced to haue sauied the conscience of her mayd, and
cried her husband euē to the full, with no more losse then
watching for a night. The husband perceiuing her to seem so
pleasant, spoyd within himselfe: If she knew my fortune, she
would not looke so merrily vpon me: and speaking vnderher
of diuers things, he tooke her by the hand, and perceiuing
she had not the ring, whiche she never put off her finger, he be-
came so much abashē, that with a trembling voice, he asked
her and sayd, What haue you done with your ring? but she
that was full glas that he began to meddle that whiche ther
selfe

Maurer's Tales.

selfe de listed to biter, sayd unto him: O the most wicked man
that ever liued on the earth, from whome thinke you, your
ooke the ring? you thought you ooke it from my mayd, for
whose sake you haue spent darble so much more of your good-
nesse, then ever you did for mee: for the first time that you
came to me, I esteemed you so amorous of her, that moe
you could not be, but after you went out, and then came in a-
gaine, you seemed to be a devill, and not a man; O unhappy
wretch, thinke with your selfe what blintness hath bewitched
you, so much to use my company whereof you haue received
the pleasure, and yet esteemed it not. It is not then the beauti-
tie or person of your mayd that made you finde such pleasure
at this time, but it is sinne and filchy lust that burneth in your
heart, and makes your head so medde, that you haue taken
goate at that time for a wench. Now husband, I entreated
to mend your life, and content your selfe with me, supposing me
to be your owne, and an honest woman, and thynke what you
haue done, supposing me to be your chamber mayd: that I
haue done was onely to withdraw from you sinne, to thre you
that in our age, we both may live in loue, without quiet conser-
ences. For if you meant to live as you haue done, I would
ther separate my selfe, then dayly to beholde the detraction
of your loule, your body, and your goods before my face.
But if you will confess your fault, and purpose now to live
in godly sort, obeying hym, I will forget all former faults, as
I beseech the Lord to pardon my ingratitude, in not louing
him as I ought. If ever man was abashit, and in despaire,
surely it was this man, perceiving his wife so faire, so chaste
and honest, to haue bene left by him, for one that loued him
not, and which is worse, to haue bene so accurst, to haue made
her do amisse, not knowing it, and made another gantaker of
that pleasure that onely was for him, whereby he undid hym-
selfe to weare the hornes, to his perpetuall shame. But spe-
ceming his wife so maied, touching the loue he bare unto the
mayd, was well aduisid not to viclefe the wicked touch he
had playd with her, but asking her forgivence, which he promise

The Queene of

to say goe his wicked life, he gaue her the ring againe, which he had taken from the other man, whome he besought not to disclose the fact. But divers chinges are spoken secretly that after come to light: for not long time after the truch thereof was knowne, and he was called cuckold, without disgrace to her.

The ninth Nouell.

IThe pitifull death of an amorous Gentleman, by having ouer late received comfort from the Gentlewoman whom he loued:

Betwene Daulphinois and Provance there was a Gentleman much richer in vertue, beauty, and honestie, than of worldy goods, that extremely loued a Gentlewoman, whose name I wil not now rehearse, for her knyght sake, that are proceeded of great and rich houses; but assure your selues the thing is most true: and because hee was not of the like house, he durst not discover his affection, for that hee loue her bare unto her was so great and so perfect, that hee durst not die than to desire any thing that might haue beene to her dishonour; and perceiving himselfe to be of so meane parentage in respect of hers, was wholly out of hope to marrie her. Wherefore his loue was grounded upon no other poynt, than onelie to loue her with all his power, as perfectly as he could: which he so long continued, that in the end she hadde some inkling thereof; and perceiving the loue hee bare unto her, so ful of vertue and good speeches, she esteemed herselfe most happy to be beloued of one that was so vertuous, and gaue him therupon so good countenaunce, that hee which soughte no other thing, was therewith well pleased. But malice the enemy of all quietnes, could not indure this honest and happy life, for that certaine men saide unto the mother of the gentlewoman, that they were much abashed what that gentleman made so much within her housey, and that it was thoughte

The Queene of

thought her daughters beautie was the onely cause, with
whome he was often seene to speake. The mother which no-
thing doubted of the gentlemans honest behaviour, whereof
she assured herselfe, as much as of any of her owne children,
was very sorie to heare that it was taken in euil part, ins-
much that in the ende (fearing some slander by malitious
heades might thereby arise) desired him for a time not to fre-
quent her house, as usually bee had doone: a thing which bee
found very hard to be disgested, knowing that the honest spe-
ches bee had vsed to her daughter deserved no such cause of
absence. Neuerthelesse, to the end he might cease tull spee-
ches, he sobare for so long time, and at last returned thi-
cher againe, as he had done before, whose absence had not
diminished his goodwill. But being in the house, bee under-
stoode they meant to marry the Gentlewoman with a gentle-
man, who in his opinion was not so rich, that bee should doe
him such wrong, to haue his loue, no more then he himselfe.
And thereupon beganne to take heart, and to employ his
friends to speake for him; thinking that if the choyce were put
unto the gentlewoman, she would preferre him before the o-
ther: neuerthelesse, the mother of the gentlewoman and her
friends, because the other was richer, chose him; wherat the
gentleman was so much displeased, that knowing his friend
lost as much contentment as himselfe, by little and litle with-
out other sickenes, beganne to consume, and in short space
was changed, and that in such sorte, that it seemed hee coueted
the beauty of his face, with the maske of death, wherunto
from hower to hower he still appoached: yet could he not re-
fraine, but sometimes went to speake with her whom he so
deereley loued. But in the ende when strength failed him, he
was constrained to keepe his bed, whereof he would not once
aduertise her whome he loued, fearing to procure her cause
of griefe, and so suffering himselfe to fall into despaire, he
lost both his eacing, drynking and his naturall rest, in somuch
that it was impossible to know him by reason of his leanenes
and strange countenance. By chance a friend of his adver-
tised

The Queene of

tised the mother, of his loue who being very charitable, and
on the other side loued the Gentleman so well, as that if all
the friends had beene of her and her daughters opinion, they
had preferred his honest behavour before all the riches of the
other Gentleman: but the fathers kindred would not consent:
thereto. Shee with her daughter went to visit him, whome
he found rather dead then living, and knowing his death to
approch, had confessed himselfe, and received the holy sacra-
ment, thinking presently to die and never to see any man ag-
aine: bus being as it were within two fingers breadth neare
to death, seeing her that was his life and resurrection, fel-
himselfe so strong that he cast himselfe upon a bed saying vnto
the lady, what occasion hath brought you vnto her? Madame
to come and visit him that hath his soule already in the graue,
and of whose death you are the cause: what (said the Lady)
may it be possible that he whom we loue so well, shoulde re-
ceave his death by our meanes? I pray you shew vs for
what cause you vse this speech? Madame said he, although
as much as in me lay, I haue dissembled the loue I bare vnto
to the Gentlewoman your daughter, so it is that my friends
speaking of her mariage & mine together, haue spoken more
then willingly I would, considering the mischiefe than is fall-
en vpon me, to loose the hope, not for my particular pleasure,
but because I know full well shee shall not be so well used,
nor so well beloved as shee shoulde haue beene with me. The
good I perceue shre losseth of the best and most affectionat
servant and friend that shre hath in this world, procureth me
more grief, then the losse of this my life, which for her only I
would preserue, but seeing it can serue her to no end, in loo-
sing it, it is some great profit. The mother and the daughter
hearing his discourse, sought by all meanes to comfort him.
The mother saying vnto him, be of good courage and I pro-
misse you of my faith, that if God send you your health, my
daughter shall never haue other husband then your selfe, and
here shre is in presence, whom I command to give her faith
vnto you. The daughter weeping, laboured to do that which
her.

Nauarres Tales.

her mother promised shee shold : but he knowing that whan he shold be whole, he shold not haue his loue, and that the good speech shee vtered unto him, was onely but to prooue if that shee could reviue him. Once againe he said unto her, that if those words had beene spoken unto him thre monchs before, he had beene the healthfullest and the happiest Gentleman in France, but the reliese came now so late, that it could not be beleaved, nor yet hoped, and when he sawe they enforced themselves to make him to beleue it, he said unto them : Well seeing I perceiue you promise me that good which never wil come to passe, although you desire it shold; for the weakeenes wherin I am, I craue of you, a thing much lesse then that, which hitherto I never was so bold for to require; with that, both of them sware to grant it bidding him freely speake. I beseech you then said he, that you will giue her into my armes, whom you doe promise me shall bee my wife, and command her to imbrace and kisse me. The daughter that neuer had vsed any such entertainement, thought to denie it him: but her mother commanded her expressely, perceiving there was no more liuely feeling in him, then in a dead man. Therewith the daughter by her mothers commandement went to the sick mans bed, and said unto him, my good friend, I pray you comfort your selfe. The poore languishing Gentleman as well as he could in his extreame weakenes, stretched forth his armes, nothing but shinnes and bones, and with all the strenght of his body imbraced the cause of that his death, and kissing her with his pale and cold lippes, held her as long as possible he could, and then saide unto her, the loue I haue borne unto you hath beene so great and honest, that neuer (mariage set apart) did I desire other sauour at your hands, then I haue nowe: so want whereof, and therewith I will most gladly peeld my spirit unto God, who is perfect loue and charite, and knoweth the greatness of my loue, and my honest desire beseeching him (hauing my whole delight betweene mine armes) to receive my spirit in his hands: & saying so, took her again into his armes so vehe-

Nauarres Tales.

grently, that the weake heart beeing not able to sustaine that force, was wholy forsaken of all his lively spirits, for that the ioy made it so to retoice, that the soule abandoning his place, departed from the body, and although the poore body continued without life, and by that meanes coulde no more holde her grieve, neverthelesse the loue, which the Gentlewoman had alwaies hidden shewed it selfe so much at that time, that the mother and her servant had much adoe to seperate their bodies. But by force pulled the living almost dead from the dead whom they caused honourably to be buried; but the greatest triumph vised at his obsequie was, the teares, sorrowes and cries of the poore Gentlewoman, which shewed so much the more after his death, as shee dissembled them during his life, in a maner satisfying the wrong that shee had done unto him, and since that time, (as I haue heard) what husband sauer shee had giuen her, shee was never merry at her heart.

The tenth Nouell.

The incontinencie of a Duke together with his impudencie to attaine his desire, with the iust punishment of his euill intent.

Dong since there was a Duke of Florence, that had married the ladie Margaret bastard daughter to the emperour Charles the first: and because as yet she was so yong, that hee might not lie with her, stayng till shee came to yeares, he vsed her very kindly, for that to spare her he was amorous of certayne Ladies in the cittie, which by night he went to visite, while his wife slept. Among others he loued a very faire, wise, and honest Gentlewoman, suster to a Gentleman, of whome the Duke made great account, and to whom he gaue so great authoritie in his house, that his word was as much feared and obeyed as if he had bin the

Maunres Tales.

the Duke himselfe : and there was no secret in his hart, that he made not knoune to him, in such sort that he might well be termed a second Duke. The Duke perceiving his sister to be so honest, that by no meanes hee could declare his loue vnto her; after he had sought all meanes he could, he went to the Gentleman, whome he loued so well, and said vnto him: If there were anie thing in this world (my good friend saide he) that I would refuse to do for you, I shoud feare to shew you my deince, and much more to intreate you to be affilient vnto me. But I deare such loue vnto you, as that if I had either wife, mother, or daughter, that might be a meanes to sauе your life, I would rather imployn them therin, than let you die for want of them: And Iesseeme the loue you beare to me, to be no lesse, and in such sort, that if I my selfe which am your maister, do deare you such affection, you can not at the least beare less to me. Therefore I intane to vicer a secret vnto you, the secrete wherof bringes mee in such a case as you now see, whereof I never hope redresse, but onelie by death, or by the seruice which in this respect you now may do vnto me. The Gentleman hearing his maisters treasons, and perceiving his loue, vnfainedly wet with teares, took such pitie on him, that he said vnto him: My Lord, at the good and honour I haue proceedes from you, you may speake to me, as to your friend, being wel assured, that the thing whiche is in my power, is already in your handes. With that the Duke begann to declare vnto him the loue he bare vnto his sister, which was so great and strong, as that if by his means he could not obtaine the same, he was not able to liue long, as knowing well that in regard of her, neither prayers nor presents would ought preuaile, wherefore he desired him, that if he loued his life, as much as he his, he would finde meanes to win him that fauour, which without him he never hoped for. The brother that loued his sister, and the honour of his house, more then the Dukes pleasure, sought by certaine reasons to dissuade him, beseeching him to imployn him in any other thing rather then that, which might be so great

The Queene of

a dispight vnto him, as to purchase the dishonor of his owne blood, saying that his heart and honour could not agree to do him seruice therin. The Duke inflamed with an insupportable rage, put his finger in his mouth, biting his nasse, and answered him in great fury, Well seeing I finde no friendeship in you, I know what I must do. The gentleman knowinge the cruelty of his master, was in great feare, and said vnto him : My lord, seeing it is your pleasure, I will speake vnto her, and tell you what she saith. The Duke answered, going from him, if you loue my life, I will likewise loue yours. The Gentleman vnderstoode well what that word meant, and was a day or two before he saw the Duke againe, thinking what he had to doe : on the one side he set before his eyes the duecy bee ought vnto his master, with the riches and honours that by his meanes bee had received, on the other side, the honour of his house, the honestie and chasteitie of his sister, whom he knew would never consent to so dishonour an action, if by subtiltie she were not deceived, or by force compelled thereunto : a thing which he would finde veray strange, seeing that thereby both he and his shold be defamed. Wherefore he determined, that he had rather die, then commit so wicked a fact against his sister, being one of the honestest women in all Italie, and that he would rather deliuere his countrey of such a tyrant, then by force to bring so great a shame vpon his owne house : for that he was assured, that without the Dukes death, his life, nor yet his friends could be in saftey : wherefore without speaking to his sister, he determined by one meanes to sauue his owne life, and reuenge her shame, at the end of two dayes bee went vnto the Duke, and said vnto him, that he had so well practised with his sister (not without great paine) that in the end she consented to his will, vpon condition he should keepe the thing so secret, that none but her brother shold know thereof. The Duke, that desired those newes, beleued him, and imbracing the messenger, promised him whatsoeuer he woulde desire, desiring him to bring the same to passe with as much speede as might.

Navarre's Tales.

night be : whereupon they did appoint the day. If the Duke was glad , you need not doubt : and when he knew the night (hee so much desired) to approach, wherein hee hoped to obtaine the victorie of her, whome he esteemed invincible, he withdrew himselfe with the Gentleman onely, not forgetting to put on his coife and perfumed shirt , the best that could be found. And when all were gone to rest, hee went with the Gentleman unto his house, where he entred into a very pleasant chamber : there the Gentleman pulled off his night gowne, and layd him in his bed, saying vnto him, I will goe fetch her, that will not enter into this chamber without blushing, but I hope before morning, she will be assured of you : with that hee left the Duke , and went into his chamber, where he found but one of his men, to whom he says : Darest thou be so hardy to follow me vnto a place, where I will reuenge my selfe of the greatest enemy I haue in all y world. His man ignorant what he would do, sayd : Sir, that I will, were it the Duke himselfe. With that the Gentleman leueth him so suddenly that he had no other weapon then a poinard at his backe. When the Duke heard him come againe, thinkeing he brought her with him whome he loued so well, he opened the curtaines to see and receive her , he had so long attended, but instead of seeing her by whome he hoped the preservation of his life, he beheld his owne headlong falling into death, being a naked sword which the gentleman had drawn, wherewith he stakke the Duke being in his shirt, who being delicate of armes, but not of hart, set himselfe upright within the bed and tooke the Gentleman by the middle, saying vnto him, Is this the promise you keepe : and seeing he had no other weapon but his teeth and nailes , he bit the Gentleman by the thumb, & by strength of armes defended himselfe so well, that both of them fell upon the bed : the Gentleman beeing not well assured , called his servant, wher finding the Duke and his Maister so hardly clasped togither, that hee knewe not which to chuse, drewe them both by the feet into the middle of the chamber, and with his poniard affained to

The Queenie of

at the Dukes shpoate, who defended himselfe vntill the losse
of his blood made him so weake that he could doe no more.
Then the Gentleman and his seruant laide him in his bedde,
wherewith the stabs of a dagger they made an end of killing
him, and drawing their cutten they went their waies, and
shut the dead body within the chamber, and when he founde
himselfe victorios of his enemy, by whose death he hoped
to set the commond wealth at liberty, though his cruelty shoulde
yet be imperfect, if he doe not as much to sive or take of those
that were the Dukes neareſt kinſemē. And to bring the ſame
to paſſe, he ſaid unto his ſervant that he would go and fetche
thent one after the other, to deale with them as he had done
with the Duke: but his ſervant being neither ſtrong nor bold,
ſaid unto him, me thinketh ſir, you haue done enough at this
time, and that you ſhall doe better in thinking howe to ſave
your owne life, then ſeeke to take it from others, for if we
may ſo long to kill each of them, as we doe about the Duke,
the day will ſooner diſcover our enterprize, then wee ſhall
bring it to an end, althoſh we ſound our enemis without
defence, the Gentleman, whose wicked conſcience made him
fearefull beſeeued his ſervant, & taking him with him, went
unto the Bishop that had charge of opening the gates of the
City, and to command the poſts and ſaid unto him, I haue
this night receiu'd news that a brother of mine is at the point
of death, ſo that I haue desired licence of the Duke to go
unto him, who hath granted it me, wherfore I pray you com-
mand the poſts to giue me two good houſes, and will the po-
ſter to open me the gates. The Bishop that eſteemed his re-
queſt no leſſe then the commandement of the Duke his ma-
ſter, gaue him preſently a billet, by vertue whereof the gate
was opened vnto him, and the houſes deliuered according to
his deſire, and inſtead of going to ſee his brother, he went to
Venice, where hee cauſed the byrings he had received by the
Duke to be healed, and from thence went into Turquie. In
the moſing the Dukes ſeruantes ſeeing him ſo long before
he came, ſuſpected he was gone to ſee ſome wenchwoman,

but

The Queene of

but perceiving him to say, began on al sides to seeke him out. The poore Dutches that began to loue him wel, knowing he could not be found, was in great feare: but when the Gentleman he loued so well, could no more be found then he, they went to seeke him at his house, & finding bloud at his chamber doore, entered into the chamber, but no man could tel them newes, and following the teares of the bloud, the Dukes poore seruants came to the chamber wherin he was, which they found lockt, but they soone brake downe the doore: and perceiving the place all full of bloud, they drewe the curtayn and there found the poore body within the bed, sleeping his long sleepe. You may well thinke what sorrowe his poore seruants made, that bare the body to his pallace, whither the Bishop came, who told them how the Gentleman was departed by night in great haste vnder pretence to go and see his brother: wherefore it was evidently found that it was he that had done the murther. And it was prooved that his poore sister, had never heard thereof, who although shee was abashit at that had happened, yet she loued her brother the moxe, that had deliuered her from so cruell a Prince, euen my of her chasity, not hauing for the safegard thereof, scared to hazard his own life: and continued moxe and moxe her honest and vertuous life, in such sorte, that although shee was but poore, because their house and goods was all confiscat, yet shee and her sister found as rich husbands as any were in Italie, and euer since haue liued in great reputation.

The eleventh Nouell.

¶ The subtily of an amorous gentleman, that vnder the fauour and countenance of a good friend, obtained of a Gentlewoman of Millan the fruits of his forepast labours.



In the dutchie of Millan at such time as the great master of Chaumont was gouernor: there was a Gentleman named the Lord of Ventres, who after for his vertues, was Admirall of France. His

The Queene of

being at Milan welbeloved of the great Master and of all others, for the vertues that were in him, used much to banquets where the Ladies and Gentlemen did resort, of whome he was better esteemed then euer any French man before him had bee, as well for his beuty, good grace, and pleasant speech, as for the report given of him, to be one of the valiantest and stoutest warriors that euer was in his time. Upon a day being in a maske in Shrovetooke, he led one of the fairest and fairest Gentlewomen in all the City to dance with him, and when the hautboies paused, he failed not to sollicite her with loue, which he knew better then others how to doe. But she that was not behinde in answering him, would so dainly cast her fanne before her face and say him, assuring him that she loued not, nor euer would loue any but only her husband, wishing him not to hope for any other at her bands. This answere made not the Gentleman to forbear, but earnestly pursued her, untill last: but for a resolution he founde her firme and constant in determination, neither to loue him nor any other, which he could not beleue, considering the hard countenance of her husband and her great beauty: wherefore seeing she so much dissembled, he determined likewise to use deceipt. And from that time forworts left off his suite, and enquired so well of her life, that hee found shee loued a very wise and honest Gentleman of Italie: the said Lord of Bonivet by little and little acquainted himselfe with the said Gentleman, in such crafty and subtile manner that he newe could perceiue, but he loued him so well, that after his Lady, he was the man that in the world he most loued. The Lord of Bonivet to find the secret of his heart, feigned to shew him his, and that he loued a Gentlewoman whom hee newe thought vpon, desiring him to keepe his secret, and besought him that their harts and mindes might be all one. The poore Gentleman to shewe him the like fauour tolde him at large of his loue he bare unto the Gentlewoman, whereof Bonivet sought to be revenged, and once a day they mett in some place or other to shewe their good fortunes that day past,

which

Maistres Tales.

whiche he vpon this in good dede, the other dissembling. And the gentleman confesteth that he had loued that gentlewoman for the space of three yeeres together, without ever obtaining any other thing at her handes than only faire speeches, with affection to be beloued of her. The said Bonivet counseled him the best way hee coulde, to finde the meanes to bring his purpos to passe; whereby he founde himselfe so well saleye that in fewe whens after she gauntes him his desire: and therre vnto nothing dide to finde the meanes to execute the same, which by the lope Bonivets meanes was soone founde out.

One day before supper the Gentleman salut unto him. Sir I am more beholding vpon you than to al the men in the world, for that by your good counsel I hope this night to besie that Dame so manie yeares laboured to obtaine. I pray therre said Bonivet shew me the manner of the enterprise, to let if there be deceit or hazard therin, that I may aide and serue therre as a friend. The Gentleman tolde him how she meant to leau the street doore open, under pretence of a certaine disease that one of her brethren had, for whome at all times of the night they were forced to fetch some thing or other's and that hee might assuredly enter into the Court: but that hee was to take heede hee went not up the great staires, but rather, a small paire of staires on the right hand, and so enter into the first gallery, where hee should finde that all the doores of the chambers of her father and brother in lawe did open, and that he should chuse the third doore nearest unto the saide staires, and that if in chyusting it softly from him hee found it shun, hee shoulde not stay, beeing assured that her husband was come, who neverthelesse was not to retorne in two dayes, and that if he found it open, he shoulde go in softly, and then shut it to him, knowing therby not any body to be therin, but she her selfe, and that about all, he shoulde not forget to make shooes of felt, fearing to make any noise, and that he shoulde likewise be sure not to come before two hours after midnight, becausse her brethren that loued play, never used to gue to bed before one of the clocke at night: the saide Bonivet answered him.

Nauares Tales.

and faiers alle my frind, God be thy spede, I beseeche him to
keepe them from incoumberance, if my company may pleasure
thee, I will not spare any thing that is in my power. The
Gentleman thanked him moch heartily, and tolde him that in
such an enterprize he could not be too faire, and went present-
ly to take order for the same. The L. of Bonivet for his part
leuenet, and perelvning at time to bee renengis on his knell
Dame, withdrawen himself in good tyme unto his lodgings,
and cause his bray to be one of the same length and breadth
that the Gentleman wote his bray, and cut his haire like-
wise, to the end that by touching, their differencie might not
be dubioue : he forgate not his felte shooes, and the rest of his
apparell like unto the Gentlewoman : and because he was
much beloved of the father in lawe to that Gentlewoman,
was not afraid to go thither in good tyme, thinking that if he
were perceivied, he would go strait unto the old mans cham-
ber, with whom he had some busines to do ; and about mid-
night entred into the gentlewomans house, where he found
dooreys of the booke stirring, but yet hee passed and was not
kyntone, and so entered into the gallooy ; and touching the
two first doores, he found them shut, but not the third, which
he thrust softly from him, and being in the chamber, he shute
she dooore to him, and perceivied all the chamber to be hanged
with white linnen cloth, the floore and the roose in like sort,
and a bed of linnen very fine, so well wrought with white
workes as possible might be, and the Gentlewoman alone
within the bedde in her smooke and a wastecoat all set with
pearles and stones, which he perceivied thorow the curtaines,
not being scane of her, for there stood a great candle of white
waxe upon the table, that made her chamber seeme as light
as day : but fearing to be knowen by her, he put it out : that
done, he put off his clothes vnto his shirt, and layed himselfe
downe by her, she thinking it had beeene the Gentleman that
had loued her so long, received him in as friendly manner as
she could : but he that knew it was done in the name of ano-
ther man, would not speake a word, but thought onely to ex-

ecuse

Nauarres Tales.

ente his reuenge, which was to bereave her, both of honour
and chasticie, without gaigning her thanks: but against his will
and determination, the Gentlewoman contented herself so
well with that reuenge, that she thought she had accompa-
nied him well for his paines, insaille an houre after midnighe,
that it was time to bid her farewell, and then as softly as he
could, he asked her ifshe were as well content with him as he
with her: she thinking it had bene her friend, sayde that she
was not ouely content, but maruelled at his great loue, that
had made him stay an whole houre from speaking unto her:
with that he began to laugh, saying vnto her, Well Gentle-
woman, will you refuse me another time, as til now you haue
pled to doe: Sobe that knew him by his speech and laughter,
for shame was almost desparate, and more then a thousand
times called him villaine, traitour, and couner, thinking to
rise out of the bed, to finde a knife to kill herselfe, seeing she
had bene so accursed, to lose her honour, for a man she loued
not, and that to be reneged on her, might make it knownen
to all the world. But he held her in his armes, and by good
and faire speches, assured her to loue her more then him shre
loued, and that he would be secret, in such sorte that she shoulde
neuer heare it. At which the poore soule beleueued: and vnder-
standing his intention, and the paines that he had taken for
to win her, sware she would loue him better then the other,
that could not keepe his secrets: and sayd that she then knewe
the contrary of the false report given of French men, for they
were wiser, more perciuant, and discreet then the Italianes
wherefore from thenceforward she would desist from her opi-
nion touching his countreymen, to content her minde with
him. But she desired him al very earnestly, that for a time he
would not be in place, or bawker where she might come, but
only in a maske, because she knew full well she shoulde so
ashamed, that her countenance would make it knownen to all
the world. He promised her it shoulde be so, and prayed her
that when her friend came about two of the cloche, that she
would bid him welcomme, and that after by little and little she
mighc

The Queene of

nighe cast him off. Wherof she made so great difficultie
that but onely for the loue she bare vnto him, she would haue
granted it. Nevertheless in bidding him auue, he concented
her so well, that she would willingly haue had him stay lon-
ger. After he was vp and made him ready, he went out of the
chamber, and left the doore as he had found it: and because
it was almost two of the clocke after midnight, and that he
feared to meet the Gentleman in the way, he staid at the top
of the staires, where presently after he saw him passe by, and
enter into the chamber. Which done he went straight unto
his lodging, to rest him of his traiales, in such sorte, that at
nine of the clocke in the morning they found him in his bed.
When he was rising, the Gentleman came in, that failed
not to shew him his fortune, not so good as he hoped it shuld
haue benn: for sayd he, when I entered into the chamber, I
found her vp, and set in her mantle, with a fit of an ague vpon
her, her pulses bearing sorte, her face all in a colour and sweat-
ing, her disease beginning to come vpon her, in such maner,
that she desired me presently to depart, for that fearing some
inconuenience, she durst not call her women, whereby she
was so ill at ease, that she had more cause to thinke on death
then vpon loue, and rather to heare speaking of God then of
Cupid, being very sorry for the hazard wherein I had put my
selfe for her, seeing she had not the meane in this world to
render mee the like, but she hoped to doe it in the world to
come. Wherat I was so abasche, that my fier and top were
turned into iife and sadness, and so I presently departed: and
in the morning about breake of day I sent to know how she
did, and newes were returned me of a certaine that she was
very sickle: and saying so, he wept so bitterly, that it seemed
he would peeld his spirite with teares. Bonines that had as
much desire to laugh as the other to weepe, comforted him
the best he could: saying vnto him, that things of long conci-
nuance haue alwaies a hard beginning, and that loue gaue
him a delay to cause him to seele a enjoying therof to bee
more pleasant, and therewith they departed from each other.

The

Mauarres Tales.

The Gentlewoman for certaine daies after kept her bedchamber
and retaing her health, gave her first seruant his farewell,
grounding it upon the feare she had of death, and remorse of
conscience, and contented her selfe with the lord of Wymore,
whereof the amys intured (according to the custome) as
the beauty of the flowers in the fieldes. The twelfth Nouell. and a fayre glass
Now cometh to you so I may add thereto and so I will
¶ Of a Gentlewoman in the Kings court, that perciuing
her selfe to be disdained of her husband, that loued
other women, shée reuenged her selfe by the like
meanes. The twelfth Nouell. and a fayre glass

In the Court of King Francis, the first, there
was a Gentleman whose name I know full
well, but I wil not name it, he was but poore,
as having but 500. frankes yearely roial, to
live on, but so much esteemed of by the King,
for the vertues wherewith he was endowen, that he maried
so rich a wife, as that a great Loyde would haue contented
himselfe with her, and because shée was very young, he desir-
ed one of the greatest Ladies in the court to keepe her in her
house, which shée willingly did. This Gentleman was so
honest and so full of good grace, that all the Ladies in the
court made great account of him, amongst among the rest
the King loued, yet not so faire nor so young as his owne,
and for the greate loue he bare unto her he made so small ac-
count of his wife, that hardly once a yeare he lay with her,
and which was more impoerable for her, was, that he never
spake vnto her, nor shewed any signes of loue: and although
he enioyed her goods, yet he gaue her so small a portion, that
hardly was the apparello as her estate required, neither as
she desired, whereby the Lady with whom she was, often-
times reproched the Gentleman, saying unto him: your wife
is faire, rich and of a good house, and you esteeme not of her.

The Queene of

which her industrie and yong yeres hath boyn brought her to
her glorie that when she shal perceiue her selfe to be faire
and of good stature, that come out that donech you nat feare
bramby (which to you is not esteemed) will seek her to marri her
for that in despitte she will marrie, which bring by you will
bled she durst not once comande. The Gentlewoman that haue
set his heart in another place, mocked her, and for all that
teased not to follow his old courser: but two or three yeares
being past over, his wife began to bee one of the fairest wo-
men in all france, and so faire, that she had the whole regio[n]
in the countie to haue her matche: and the more she perci-
ued and fel[i] her selfe worthy to be beloved, the more it grie-
ued her to see her husband, that made no accou[n]t of her, in
such sorte, that she tooke so great displeasure therat, that
without the confort of her mistres she was in a maner de-
jected and having sought al meane she could to winne her
husbands loue, though with her selfe it was impossible, but
that he shal loue her considering the great loue he bare unto
her, vntill his minde were calmed agaynste, whiche shee
so fablessly went about to know, that at nyne she found the
trouth, and that he every night was so busie elsewhere, that he
forgot both his conscience and his wife, and after she had al-
lured of the kynges leeu, she was so malacholy, that she would
weare nothing but blanche, ney hant al poules where myn
wif wold ther comas when. Which her mistres perciuing, did
what she could to wende to her from this sad concomit, b[ut] it
was impossible, and although her husband were alwaies al-
therof, he was he readier to make her than to take amys
her sholdren. You know Gentlewoman that giveth the com-
munity loue, and that grieve by ioy is encomis. Therfore it
happened that a great Lord were kindest unto the mistres
of the Gentlewoman and that same afeyrether, understand-
ing the strong manner of the Gentlewoman her husband, had
so great pitty on her, that he thought to try if he could com-
fort her: and speaking with her found her so faire and be-
auis, that he had more desire to win her fauor, then to speake
unto

Nanarres Tales.

into her of her husband : unless it were to shewe her what small occasion she had to loue him.

The Gentlewoman perceiving her selfe forsaken of him that ought to loue her, and on the other side loued, and sought unto of so great and faire a prince, counted her selfe happie to be so much in his fauour. And although she alwayes desired to preserue her hono^r, yet she tooke great pleasure to speake unto him, and to see her selfe belouen ; a thing whereof shee had great want. This loue continued for a time, vntill by chance the King perceiued it, who loued the Gentleman her husband so well, that he would not suffer any man to prosecute his shame or displeasure : wherefore hee desired the prince to withdraw his minde, saying that if he did it not, he woulde be offendeth with him. The prince that loued the kings fauour and goodwill better than all the ladies in the world, prouid for him, that for his sake he woulde leauie his enterprise, and that at night he woulde take his leaue of her : which he did as soone as he understood her to be in her lodgynge, and the gentlewoman himselfe was lodged in a chamber ouer her : and looking out of his chamber window, perceyved the prince to enter into his wifes chamber being vnder his. But the prince that saw him well, said not to enter, and bidding her adieu, whose loue as then did but beginne, tolde her the reason was because the King had commaunded him so to do. After many teares and sighes that continued vntill an houre after mid-night, the gentlewoman for conclusion spake and saide : I thank God (my Lord) that it hath pleased him to alter your opinion, seeing it is so small and feeble that you can take and leauie it at mans commandement. For as for me I haue not asched counseil either of mistris, or of husband, or of my selfe to loue you ; for loue helping it selfe with your beautie and honestie, hath had such power ouer me, that I haue not known other God or King then it : but seeing your heart is not filled with so true loue, that feare as yet remainteth thereint you cannot haue perfect friend, and of an imperfect I will not make a friend, for that I loue perfectly, as I haue determin-

The Queene of

wed to loue you, but now (my lord) I am constrained to bid
you farewel, whose feare doth not deserue the freedome of
my loue. Which that the Lord reparsed weeping, and as he
went away, he perceaved her husband stil standing at the win-
dow, that had wch seen him goe in and out; wherefore the
next day he told him the occasion why he went unto his wife,
ans the commandement the King had giuen him, wherewith
the Gentleman was wel pleased, and thanked the King: but
seeing his wife daily to ware faicer than she was, and bee to
the contrary became olde and lesse beautifull, beganne to
change course, taking that which he had caused his wife full
often to use, for that he made more of her than vsually he did,
Whereby he Cooke more heed unto her. But the more she per-
ceaved herself sought unto by him, the more shew estranged
herself from him, desiring to give him part of the sorrowes
and grieses she had had, in being little beloved of him, and
not so soone to lay hold on that pleasure, which loue began to
shew her, she addressed herself unto a young Gentleman so
faire, so well spoken, and of so good a grace that he was de-
loved of al the ladies in the court. And making her complaint
unto him, how he had bin well used, mooued him to haue pa-
thy on her, in such maner, that the Gentleman forgot not anyt
thing that might comfort her: and shew to recompence herselfe
for the losse of a prince that had forsaken her, set her loue in
fate upon the gentleman, that she forgot her sorrow past, and
thought of nothing else but howe to behane her selfe therein,
which she could doe so well, that her mistres never perceaved
it, for shew never spake unto him in her presence. But when
she would speake unto him, she wente to visite certaine ladies
that lodged in the Court: among the which there was one
wherof her husband fained to be amorous; and upon an ent-
ering after supper this gentlewoman tolde out when it was
darke without company, and went into the ladies chamber,
wherein she found him whome she loued better than her selfe;
and sitting hard by him, leaning on a table, they spake toge-
ther, making semblance as if they hadde ne reading vpon a
bookes

Neararres Tales.

bookes : but some one whome her husband had appoynted to
watch her, tolde him whiche his wife was gone a bee being
craftie, went presently thither, and entring into the chamber,
perceiued his wife reading in a booke, but making as though
he sawe her not, went among the ladies to speake to them :
The poore gentlewoman perceiving her husband had found
her in his company, to whom in his presence she had never
spoken, was in such feare, that she lost all sence ; and having
not the meane to passe by a banch, she slid along by a table
and clime away, as her husband had followed her with a stic
ked swoe in his hand, and went into her mistres chamber,
who as then was come into her lodging ; and when her mis
tres was a bed, she went into her owne chamber, where one
of her mindes tolde her, that her husband asked for her : She
boldly made answer, she wold not come at him, saying that
he was so strange and cruell, that she feared he wold do her
some mischiefe . But in the ende, le^ts worse shold happen,
she went unto him : when she came into his chamber, her
husband gaue her no a word before they were in bed, where
she that could not dissemble, as he had done, began to wepe
And when he askid wherfore she wept, she saide because she
feared he was angry with her, for that he had found her by a
gentleman reading in a booke . Whereunto he answeren he
had neuer forbiiden her to speake to any man, and that he di
daled not of her speaking to him, but for that she ranne away,
as if she had done somethyng worth reprobation, and that her
running away made him verily suspect she loued the gentle
man : wherefore he forbade her, that from that time forward
she shold non speake either privately or publikely unto anie
man, affirring her, that the first time she shold do it, he would
kill her without mercy, which she promised to performe, ma
king her account at other times not to be so foolish . But be
cause that in the things that we most desire, the more we are
forbiidden, so much the more we desire them . This poore wo
man had soone forgotten her husbands threatenings, for that
the same night being returned to her chamber to lie with o
ther

The Queene of

three gentlemen much that attended on her: She sent to seke the
gentleman, desiring him to come that night to see her. But
her husband that was so plagued with iealousie, that he could
not sleepe, rose up, and rasing a chake upon his sholders,
calling one of his seruants, wexe out of his chamber, because
he had understande that the young gentleman were thicke by
night; and went and knocked at his wifes chamber doore: She
that looked for nothing lesse than her husband, rose up, and
putting a chane about her, and perceiving that there was none
of her maids sleepe, wexe out of the chamber, and came to the
doore where he knocked: and asking, who is there? answer
was made in the gentlemanes name that she loued: but she
for more assurance opened a little hatch, saying: if you be he
you say you are, glaue me your hand, & I well know the better;
and having touched her husbands hand, she knew it well, and
to all hastie quacking the hatch begaine to cry out: O sir, it is
your hand: her husband answered her and said: yea it is the
hand that shall keepe promise with you, wherefore faile not
to come when I send for you: and saying so he wente unto his
louing, and she returnede unto her chamber rather dead than
living, and spake aloud unto her women saying: Alpe my
friends you haue bin ouer sleepp for me, for that I thinking
to receive you, haue deceiu'd my selfe: and saying so she
founded and fell downe in the middle of the Chamber. The
poore women al that cre rose up, much abashed to see their
mistresse lie upon the ground, and to hearre the words she spake
so that they knew not what to do, but only to finde meanes to
recouere her and when she could speake, she said unto them: this
day (my friends) shall you see me the most miserable creature
sleepeing on the earth; and therewith shewd them the cause,
desiring them to helpe her, for that she made ful account to lose
her life.

They thinking to comfort her, there came one of the Gentry
menes seruantes, that attended on him in his chambers, that
 tolde her his master had sent for her: So thererat (embracing
two of her maids) beganne to sleepe desiring them not to let
her

Maurices Tales.

her gone, seeing she was assynd to die: But the pugnacious
her the conterpart, and that he would never chayllye this she
should haue no hance, so by conceyding that no wif shal shew
herne, cast her selfe into her夫君is humours, supynge vnto deth.
My friend, seeing it must be so, dor: thou carry this instrument
body unto her arme, and therewithall haue vndone her girdle,
the same boord by the page into her husbandes lodgynge, wher
whose feete the yong Gentlewoman sett betwix: and laynes
son, wheras he comynge to haue picy importaney, and to speake vnto
you, of my faid, I will shew to you the crinch of all, whiche shal
like a we spayre dñe man he sayd: By God your shall tolle me the
quicke: and therewithall shal all his securiteys foode. And be-
cause he had found his wif to be verye vndout, he thynkyc: the
woold not forswere her selfe quicke that ther shalbe upon the
crinch: wherefore he callid for a very faire Gentlewoman, wher
had bin brouched, and they two dwelt alone together: and ther
fweste by ic, that shal shew him truelye whedher he
shalbe askid. But shal that already has past the first shalbe of
ther fweste shal shew him forsoþ, determining before ther vse
ed, not to hidre any thing from hym and also vnto tell hym all
uy thing whereby the Gentlewoman whom ther son shal shew
him shal be wrong: and hanting heare the questions he appoynted
poundred, answared hym, and sayd: I will not tolle me my
selfe, and her picy issimile shalowes byto you. If ther vnto
the Gentlewoman who shal you shew, for ther you mene ther
no wronge tolde her, it y conserwing the sevynnes ther come
day you haue had, but I am ther delivred to the empoynt
occasion therest shal before, sir you must understand that ther
not any woman shal her husbande well do you, for
that since I was depyn until this time, ther never entered
an peched house in a time heare then ouerþ your se: you knowe
that I being grathilde, my parents sought to marry me unto a
man of greatest shawme ther selfe, yett could they never
make me agree unto it, after I once had spoken unto you, for
that against al their minds I remained constanþ to haue done
not respecting your powerles, my friendes instructions to the

con-

The Queene of

contary: and you are not ignorant what entretainment I
have bitherto had of you, and how you haue loued and esteēed
me, wherby I haue had so much sorrow and griefe, that
without the helpe of my lawe which whome you placed me, I
had in maner desparate: but in the end perceiving my selfe to
loue of more yeres, and of all men, except your selfe esteēed
faine. I began in such sorte to feele the displeasure of the
wrong you did me, that the loue I bare unto you, turned into
hatred, and the desire to please you, changed into reuenge: and
in this distaste a prince beloxed to me, who to obey the
king more then loue, left me at such time as I began to feele
thecomfort of my tormentis by an honest loue: and leauing
him, I found this Gentleman that needed not to iure at me,
for shal be beauty, honesty and vertues deserved to be requir-
ed and sought unto of all women of good judgement. At my
request, and not at his, he hath loued me, with so honest an
affection, that never in his life did he require any thing of me
contrary to mine honour. And although the small loue that
I haue cause to bear unto you, gave me occasion neuer to
scheate him: loyalty unto god, the loue which I onely bear
to god and to mine honde, haue bitherto preferred me from
doing that, for the which I should need any confession, my
fear of shame. I will not deny, but that as often as possible
I would, I went to speake with him in a gallery, vnder pre-
tence conge to prayer, for that I never put my trust either in
man or woman to be a meane therevpon: I will likewise not
deny, that being in so secret a place, and out of all suspition,
but that I kissen him with a better heart, then ever I kill you,
but yet I never aske mercy at Gods hands, if that betwix me
and him there ever was other kinde of priuyness, or that he
longe more at my handes, or that euer my heart had other
desire, for that it was so well pleased to see him, that me
thought there was no greater pleasure in the world. And you
say, that are the onely cause of my miswyp, would you be re-
menged on a deere, where you your selfe haue so long time gi-
uen me example, yours being wholly without boundes
consci-

Natuarres Tales.

conscience : for you know and I am well assured, that she whom you loue contenteth not her selfe with that which god and reason commandeth. And althoough the lawes of man do attribute so great dishonor unto women, that loue other men besides their husbands, yet it is so, that the lawe of God doeth not exempt the husband that loueth other women then his wife : and if both our offences were put into a paire of ballance it would soone be tried which were heauier. You are a man in yeares, wise and of good experiance, to knowe and understand how to auid euill; I am young and wholy without experiance to know the force and power of loue. You haue a wife, that seeketh, loueth & esteemeth you, more then her owne life, and I haue a husband that flieith from me, that hatreth and despiseth me, more then a poore servant. You loue a woman already in yeares, and of no great beauty, in respect of me, and I loue a Gentleman younger, fairer, and amiabler then you. You loue the wife of one of the greatest friends you haue in all the world, on the one side offending the Sante, and on the other side the reuerence you beare unto them both; and I loue a Gentleman that is not bound nor linked unto any, but only to the loue he beareth me. Now sir I pray you without partiality to iudge, which of vs two is most worthy of punishment or to be excused, I know not any man of experiance, but would lay the fault on you, seeing that I am young and ignorant, despised and contemned of you, & loued of the fairest & honestest Gentleman in France, whom I loue, being in despaire never to be beloved of you.

The Gentleman hearing those speeches full of truth, and uttered with a countenance so faire, together with so good a spirit, that thereby she shewed not any feare to haue deserved punishment, found himselfe so surprised with doubt, that he could make her no other answere, then only that the honor of a man and of a woman make no lesse, nor yet all one, but that neuerthelesse seeing she swore there was no sin between her friend and her, he determinid not to doe her any hurt, so that shee never blesse againe : and that neither bee hopefull

The Queene of

should ever call to minde their grieses and injuris toward her, which she promised to obserue; and with that they went to bed, as good friends. In the morning an old Gentlewoman that was in great feare of her mistris life, came unto her when she arose, asking her and said; well Madame howe doe you ? shee answered her laughing, why sweete heart, there is not a better husband in the world then mine, for hee keepted me vpon mine oath. In that maner fve or six daies passed ouer, wherein the Gentleman so narrowly watched his wife, that both night and day, she had chose that looked to her: but he could not watch her so well but that she spake vnto him she loued in a very darke and suspicuous place. Yet she did it so secretly that neither man nor woman could euer haue known it, had it not been for a report that a scrumgeman gaue foorth that he had found a Gentleman and a Gentlewoman togither in a stall vnder the chamber of this Ladie whereat the Gentleman her husband had so great suspition, that he determined to kill the Gentleman, and to the same end assembled a great number of his kinsmen and friendes, that if they could finde him in any place to kill him; but his chiefe kinsman was so great a friend vnto the Gentleman whom hee sought for, that in stead of taking him, auertised him what was done agaynst him; who on the other side was so well beloued in the court, and so well accompanayd that he feared not his enemies, so that he could not be found; but being in a Church, went in to the mistris of his loue, that never had heard of any thing that had past, for that before her hee never spake vnto her. The Gentleman tolde her of the suspition and hairet her husband bare vnto him, and that notwithstanding his innocency he was determined to absent himselfe by some long voyadge, to auoide the suspition alredy begon: the princes mistris to his friend, was much abashd to heare those speeches, and sware that the husband did wrong to suspect so honest a woman as his wife, in whom she had neuer found other then vertue and honestie. Neuer beleste because of the authority of her husband, and to quench suspition, the princes

Nauarres Tales.

princes counselled him to absent himself for a certaine time, assuring him that she would not believe any of her husband's tales or suspitions. The Gentleman and the Gentlewoman her wayting mayde were very well content to remaine in the good opinion and fauour of the princes, who counseled the Gentleman, that before his departure he shold speake with her husband, which he did, finding him in a gallery hard by the Kings chamber, where with a bold countenance (giving him his due honour) he saide unto him. Sir, I haue alwaies had a great desire to doe you seruice, and for my la-
bour I understand that the last night you sought to kill mee. I beseech you sir remember that you haue more authority & power then I haue, yet I am a Gentleman as well as you, it would grieve me much to loose my life for nothing: I be-
seech you likewise thinke that you haue an honest woman, and that if there be any man that will affirme the contrary,
I will plainly tell him that he lyeth, and for my parte,
I thinke I haue not done any thing wherby you would haue
cause to beare mee ill will; wherefore if it please you, I am
your friend, if not I am the Kings, whereby I haue occa-
sion to content my selfe. The Gentleman to whom he spake
saide, that truely he had had some suspition of him, but that
he accounted him so honest a man, that he would rather desire
his loue, then otherwise; and bidding him farewell with his
hat in hand imbraced him as his great friend. You may wel
thinke what they said, which the night before had had com-
mission to kill him, when they sawe so great shewes of
friendship and loue betweene them, whereof euery man did
speake: with that the Gentleman departed: but because he
was not so wel furnished of money as of beauty, his Lady
gave him a fawell worth 3000. crownes, which he layed to
payable for 1500. And not long after his departure the mar-
ried Gentleman went unto the chamber of the Princes, his
wives mistris, desiring her to give his wife leaue for a time
to lie at one of his sisters houses: which the princes found ver
ry strange, desiring him to let her know the cause, who tolde

The Queene of

her part, but not all. After the yong married Gentlewoman had taken her leave of the princes, and of all the court without weeping or any signe of griece, went unto the place where her husband had appointed, being in the conduct of a Gentleman that had espesiall charge to looke carefully unto her, and especially that as she rode in the way, she should not speake unto him for whom he suspected her. She that knew her husbands straight commaundement, every day during their iourney, gaue them some alarme, mocking both them and their negligent watch: and one day among the rest, as they went out of their lodgynge, she foud a frier on horsebacke, and she likewise on a gelding, entertained him from noone till night: and being about a mile from their lodgynge, she sayd vnto him, Father, for the good counsels and comforts you haue givyn me this afternoon, there are two French crowns whiche I givne you, that are within a paper because I know you dare not touch them, preparynge you that assoone as you de- part from me, you will gallop in all hastie ouer the fieldes. And when he was somewhat farre off from the Gentlewoman, she spake aloud vnto her seruantes, saying: Doe you thinke your selues good seruantes, and carefull of your charge, when he whom ye are empesiallyl commandedyd not to let speake with me hath bene with me all this afternoone, and you ne- ver sought to binder him: you deserve that your master, whiche trusted so much in you, shold give you blowes in stead of wages. When the Gentleman that had charge of her, heard those speeches, he was in such a rage, that he could not speake a word, but spurred his horse, and calling two of the men with him, did so much that they overcooke the frier whiche seeing them come towards him, fled as fast as he could, but because they were better hors then he chaynterlyk hym, and he that knew not wherefore, cried them bery, and put- ting off his hood with more humilitie to intreat them, they knew well it was not he they sought, and that their mistresse had mocked them, which she did much more at their returne, laping hyslo them: Such men as you, ought to haue the ke-
ping.

Nauarres Tales.

ping of a woman, for when you haue letten her speake you know not to whome, givynge credit to her words, you goe and do injury to the seruants of God. And after all these mockes, she arrived at the place where her husband had appointed her to be bring by her two sisters in law, & one of their husbands kept in great subiectiōn. Meane time her husband understood that her iewell lay at pawne for L 500. crownes, for the which he was sorry: but to saue his wifes credit, and to haue it againe, he tolde her that she shold fetch ic, and he would pay the 1500. crownes. She that cared not for the iewell, seeing her friend had the money, wrote unto him, how that her husband would constraine her to redeeme the iewell: and to the end he shold not thinke she did it for want of good will, shée sent him a diamond that her mistresse had giuen her, which shée loued more then any iewell shēe had. The Gentleman willingly sent her the marchants obligation, and consented himselfe to haue had 1500. crownes and a diamond, and to be assured of his friends good will, althoogh that as long as her husband liued he had no more meanes to speake unto her but by letters. And after her husbands death, because he thought her to be the same she alwayes promised him, he vised all the meanes he could to haue her in mariage. But he found that his long absence had gotten her a friend whom she loued better: whereat he tooke such griefe, that shunning all Gentlewomen, he sought aduentures, where he obtained as much honouer as any yong Gentleman could haue, and so ended his dayes.

The thirteenth Nouell.

A Gentlewoman of Millan tried the boldnesse and great courage of her louer, for the which after that, she loued him perfectly.



At the tyme of the great maister du Chaumont, there was a Gentlewoman esteemed one of the honestest women in her tyme living within the City of Millan, she marayed an Italian Earle, whose widow shēe was, living in a house of her husbands.

The Queene of

husbands bretche, never caring or desiring to heare any speach
of marrying againe, behauing hir selfe so wisely and so holily
that there was not any French man or Italian within that
Dutchie, which made not great account of her. Upon a day
as her bretchren and her mother in lawe made a great feast
for the great maister du Chamoun, this Lady being a widow
was constrainyd to be there, which in other places shre
used not; and when the French men sawe her, they esteemed
much her beauty and good grace, specially one whose name
I will not disclose: but it suffiseth you to knowe that there
was not any Frenchman in Icalie worthier then he to be be-
loued; for that hee was adorneyd with all the beauties and
good qualities a Gentleman may haue: and although he saw
this Lady (being a widow) wearing a blacke tylpe, sepa-
rated from the younger Ladies, and bearing company with
the elder sort, as one to whome man or woman could neuer
procure feare, he began to entertaine her, taking away his
visor and leauing off to dance, that he might sit by her, and
all that night left not off to speake unto her, and the olde la-
dies togither, wherein he found more pleasure then with all
the brauest and youngest Ladies in the court, in such maner,
that when he shold recite he thought hee had had the leisure
onely to sit downe: and although he spake not to this Lady,
but only of common matters, which might be spoken in such
company, yet she perceiued wel he was desirous to acquaint
himselfe with her: so that she determined to abstatne as much
as possible she might, in such maner that he could neuer after
 finde her at any feast or banquet: whereupon he enquired what
her common exercises were, and found that she often used to
the Church and divers religious houses, where she made
so good watch, that she could not go so secretly but she was
there before her, and that he stayed in the Churche as long as
he might haue meanes to see her, and that as long as he was
ther he beheld her with so great affectiō, that she could not be
ignorant of the loue he bare her: which to avoyd, she determi-
ned for a time to faine her selfe sick, and to haue masse with-

Nauagres Tales.

In her house; whereat the Gentleman was so grieved as
more he could not be, for that he had no other meanes to see
her but onely as I said before: she thinking to haue broken off
that custome, went unto the Churches as before she vised to
doe, which loue preiently made knownen unto the Gentleman
who renewed his first democions, and fearing least she should
 finde out some other means of hinderance, and that he might
not haue the time to let her know his minde, one morning as
shee thought her selfe well hidden within a little Chappell,
where she heard masse, he went and placed himself at the end
of the alter: and perceiving that she had but smal company, as
the Priest held vp the Corpus Domini, he turned unto her,
and with a vsie speech and great affection said vnto her: Ma-
dame, I take hym whom the Priest holdeith in his hands for
yon damnacion, if you onely be not the cause of my death, say
although you take from me, all meanes of speaking to you,
yet can you not be ignorant of my desire, seeing that truch suf-
ficiently declareth it vnto you by my languishing eies, and
dead countenance. The Lady counterfeiting not to know his
meaning, answered him and sayt; God ought not to be serued
in this maner, b'ut Poets doe commonly say, that Gods do
laugh at the othes and lies of louers, wherfore women that
loue their honours ought to be neither credulous nor picisfull.
And saying so she rose and went vnto her lodging: if the gen-
tleman was displeased at those wordes ther that haue tryed
the like wil say yea; but he that wared no courage, desired ra-
ther that hard answere, then to haue failed to declare his
mind, which for the space of three yeares he helde most con-
stantly, and bath by let:ers and other meanes ceased not dai-
ly to sollicite her: but during three yeares space, he could ne-
ver obtaime other answe:re, but that she fled from him, as the
wolfe doth from the dogs, fearing to be taken, vnde for any
hatred she did haue vnto him, but for the danger of her ho-
nor and reputation, which hee perceived so well that more
earnestly then before hee followed his suit: and after many
paines, refusals, tormentes, and dispaires, perceiving the

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The Queene of

continuance of his loue , this Lady had pity on him, & granted him that he had so long and earnestly desired , and when they had agreed upon the meanes, the French Gentleman failed not to hallow him selfe to go vnto her house , although his life thereby might be in great danger , because his kinsemen lodged in the same house . He that had no lesse subtillty then beauty, behaued himselfe so wisely , that he entered into her chamber at the time she had appointed , where he founde her alone lying in a rich bed, and as he made hast to put off his cloathes to go to bed vnto her , he heard a great noise of mens voyces speaking softly , and of swords that stake agaist the wals.

The Lady with a face halfe dead said vnto him, nowe at this time your life and my honour are in the greatest danger that euer they were, for there I heare my brethren which seek for you to kill you : wherefore I pray you hide you vnder the bed, for when they finde you not, I shall haue an occasion to be offended with them , for that without cause they haue giuen me such alarme . The Gentleman that as yet had never been afraid said vnto her , and what are your brethren to make an honest man astrayd? if all the race of thē were heere in presence, I am sure they would not stay the fourth blowe that I should giue, wherefore lie you still , and let me keepe the doore with that he wrapt his cloake about his arme , and hauing his swerd in hand, he went to open the doore to see his enemies weapons , whereof he heard the noyse, and hauing opened it, he saw two maides that had two swordes in each hand, wherewith they gaue him that alarme, which said vnto him, pardon vs sir, for we haue commandment from our mistres to doe so : but you shall haue no more trouble by our meanes . The Gentleman perceiving them to bee weomen, could not doe lesse then wish them at the duell, shutting the doore against them, and as soone as he could, went to bed vnto the Lady, whose feare had not in any thing diminished his loue, and forgetting to aske her the causes of her skirmishes, had no other thought but to satisfie his desire, But perci-

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Nauarres Tales.

uing day to appeare, desired her to tell him why he had done
him that iniury, not onely in prolonging time, but also in that
last enterprise, she laughing answered him, saying: my deter-
mination was never to loue which sure my widdowe-hood I
had alwaies obserued, but your honesty from the time you
spake vnto me, at the banquet made me, change opinion, and
that I began as then to loue you as much as you loued me,
it is true chst loue which alwaies guided me, would not per-
mit that loue should cause me doe the thing wherby mine ho-
nour should be ought impaired but as the hinde wounded to
death, thinketh in changing places, to change the euill which
she beareth in her body, so I went from Church to Church
thinking to flie that which I bare within my heare, whereof
I haue made so perfect ppoofe, that it hath made mine honoy
to consent vnto my loue, but to the end I might be well assu-
red to place my loue and my heart in a perfect honest man, I
thought to make this ppoofe which my maides haue now ef-
fected, assuring you, that for feare of life or other respect, I
had found you fearefull, so that you had hidden your selfe un-
der my bed, I was determined to haue risen, and haue gone
into an other chamber, without euer seeing you more; but be-
cause I haue found you faire, of good grace, and full of ver-
tue and hardines, more then was certifyed vnto me, and that
feare could not ouercome your heart, nor in any sort lessen
the loue you beare vnto me, I am dotermined to content my
selfe with you, vntill I die, being assured that I cannot put
my life and honour into a better hand, then in his, whose like
for vertues I neuer found. And so as if the mindes of men
were not mutable they sware and promised that which was
not in their powers, that is a perpetuall amity, which can-
not spring nor yet dwell in mans heart, and they knowe it
well, that haue tried and known how long such opinions doe
continue.

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The

The Queene of

The fourteenth Nouell.

A poore simple country man, whose wife loued the Curate of the Church suffereth himselfe easily to be deceaued.

In the County of Maine, in a villadge called Ar-
celles there was a rich husbandman, that in his
age had maried a faire young wench, that had no
children by him: but for the losse she had by him,
till he recompenced her selfe with other men, and when gen-
tlemen and other good companions failed she turned to her
last reliefe, which was the Church, and made him compani-
on of her sinne, that could obsoleue her, which was the Curat,
that oftentimes came to visit his sheepe. The husband be-
ing old and crastie, suspected nothing, but because he was
rude and churlish, his wife plaied her part as secretly as shee
could, fearing that if her husband should perceiue it, he would
kill her. Upon a day as he was abroad, his wife thinking hee
would come so soone againe, sent for the Curate to confess
her, and as they made good cheere togither, her husband came
in upon the sodaine, whereby the Curate had not leisure to
go vnto his house, but deuised meanes to hide himselfe, and
by the womans counsell went into a barne, and couered the
staires head where he went vp with a fanne of corne, the hus-
band being in the house, she least he should suspect her, made
him so good cheere to dinner, that she spared no drinke, wher-
of he tooke so much, that togither with the wearines he had
by labouring in the fieldes, he fell a sleepe, sitting in a chaire
before the stier. The Curate being weary to be so long in the
barne, hearing no noyse in the chamber, went vnto the staires,
chynsting out his necke as farre as he could to looke down,
perceiued the good man to be a sleepe, and looking earnestly
vpon him, leant so hardly vpon the fanne, that both fanne and
he fell vnto the ground, hard by the old man that slept, where
with

Nauarres Tales.

with he waked: the Curate that arose vp sooner then the man could open his eies, said vnto him there is your fanne, and I thanke you, wherewith he went his way ; and the poore man being abasht asked what it was: she answered him, it is your fanne that the Curate borrowed , and nowe hath brought it home, he grumbling said, doe men bse to bring home things they borrowe in such rude maner, I thought the house would haue fallen downe, by which meanes the Curate saued himselfe to the poore mans cost , that found fault with nothing but that he brought his fanne so rudely home.

The fifteenth Nouell.

The strange fragilitie of man, that to couer his horrour falleth from euil to worse.

In the time of king Leves the twelvth, one of the house of Ambois nephew to the legate of France named George, being legate in Avingnon, had in the country of Languedoc a Lady, whose name I wil not rehearse for her kinred's sake , that had better then foure thousand crownes yearely revenue : she being very young was a widow, and had but one chylde, being a sonne; and for grieve she had for the losse of her husband , as also for the loue of her sonne, determined not to marry againe. And to avoyde all occasions would not vse the company of any other then religious persons, thinking that sinne causeth temptacions, whereby the young widow gaue her selfe only to diuine seruice, wholy forsaking worldly company , in such manner that she made conscience to goe to any wedding, or to heare the Organs play within the church . When her sonne was seuen yeares olde , shee chose a man of zealous life to be his Schoolemaister, by whose good meanes he might be brought vp in godlinessse . When his sonne entred into his fifteenth yeaer, Nature, which of it selfe is a secret Schoolemaister,

The Queene of

finding him too delicately nourished, and full of idlenesse, taught him another lesson, than his maister used to do, so that he beganne to beholde and respect thinges that seemed faire; and among the rest a gentlewoman that lodged in his mothers chamber, wherof no man ever doubted, for that they no more respected hym, than a yong infant; no other thing being spoken of in the whole house but godlinesse. This yong gentleman began secretly to seek vnto the maid that told it to her mistris, who loued and esteemed her sonne so much, that shee suspected the maide to tell it her, onely to make her hate hym: but she was so importunate with her mistris, that shee said vnto her, I wil know if it be true, and assure your selfe I wil correct hym if I finde it to be so: but if you tell mee an vncruth, I wil make you feele the price therof. And to finde the cruch she willed her to appoint her sonne to come about midnight to lie with her in a bed neere vnto the doore of the chamber where the maid lay. The maid obeyed her mistris: and when night came the Gentlewoman laide her selfe in hir maides bed, determining if it were true, to correct her sonne so well, that never after he shold desire to lie with maide againe. And in that thought and displeasure her sonne came to bed vnto her. She, although she saw him lie downe, would not yet beleue he wold commit any dishonest act, but stayed to speake with him, vntil she perceiued some signes of bad desire: but not being persuaded with so small a signe, that he wold proceed further, was so long patient, and so fraile of nature, that she conuerted her choller into a most abhomina- ble pleasure, forgetting the name of mother: and euen as water that by force is holden in, when it issaech foorth, maketh more noyse than that which ranneth his ordinary course, so this poore lady turned her glory into the restraint she gaue vnto her body. And when she proceeded to decline from the first degree of honestie, she found her selfe sodainly caried and borne vnto the last; and the saide night beeame with child by hym, whom she sought to keepe from getting others with childe. The same was no sooner committed, but the reme-
of

Nuarres Tales.

of conscience, brought her into into so great torment, that the repentance never left her during her whole life, which at the first was so sharp, that she rose out of the bed from her sonue, that knew no other but it had bin the maid, and went into a closer, where calling her good determination unto mind, and the wicked execution thereof, she passed al the night in weeping and lamenting all alone : but in stead of acknowledging of the impossibilitie of our flesh, that without Gods help, can not but sinne, desiring by her selfe, and by her teares to satisfie hit fault past, and by hit wisedome to auoyde the euill to come, she laide the excuse of her sinne vpon the occasion, and vpon the weakenes of flesh and blood, whereunto there is no remedy but only by the grace of God: she thought to do that, wherby in time to come she might not fal into the like inconuenience, and as though there were but one kinde of sinne to damme men, she devised all the meanes she could to auoyde the same. But the roote of pride which externall sinne should heale, increased in her heart, in such maner, that by auoyding one mischiefe she fel into diuers others: soz the next morning as soone as it was day, she sent for her sonnes Schoole maister and said vnto him ; Now my son beginneth to war great, it is tyme to send him abroade . I haue a kinsman that dwelleth beyond the mountains with Monsis the great maister du Chammone that will be very glad to haue him in his company, wherefore I pray you bring him thither : and to thead I be not grieued with his departure, let him not come to take his leaue of me. And saying so, she gaue him money to beare his charges for the voyage : and the same morning caused the yong gentleman to depart, that was very glad at nothing else than after the inioyng the pleasure of his loue, to goe vnto the wars. The lady continued long time in great melancholp and distresse ; and had it not bin for the feare of God, she had often wished the end of the unfortunat fruit she bare within her body. In the end she fained to be sick, that vnder that pretence she might couer her imperfection : and being ready to be deliuered, remembryng that there was no

The Queene of

man in the world in whome she so much trusted, as a bastard brother of hers, whom she intretained & did him much good; she sent for him, and shewing him her hard fortune (but made him not acquainted that it was by her sonne) desired him to help her, and to saue her honour, which he did: and not long before she should lie downe, he gaue her counsell to chaunge the air, and to go to his house, where she might sooner recover her health than in her owne. She went thither but with small traime, and there she found a midwife ready for her, that by night not knowing her, brought her to bed of a fayre daughter: the gentleman delivered it vnto a nurse, and caused it to be nurst for his swine. The Lady having stayed there a moneth, went home vnto her owne house, where after that she liued more strictly than euer she did, both in fasting and discipline. But when her sonne became great, perceiving no warre to be in Italie, he sent to desire his mother that hee might come see her: she fearing to fall into the euill from whence she has escaped, would not permit him, till in shend he was so importunacie with her, that she had no reason to deny him. Neuerthelesse she sent him word, that he should never come vnto her, if he were not married to a wife that he loued wel; and that he should not respect her riches, so she were honest, and it should suffice. In the meane time her bastard brother perceiving the daughter whereof he had the charge, to ware great, & very faire, thought to place her in some house farre off, where shewould not be knowne; and by the mothes counsell, gaue her vnto the Queene of Mauarre. This daughter named Kathartne grew to the age of twelue or thirteene yeres, and became so faire & honest, that the Q. of Mauarre bare her good affection, and desired much to mary her richly. But by reason she was poore, she found her selfe to haue fateres great storie, but none that would bee her husband. Upon a day it happened that the Gentleman that was her unknowne father, returning from the other side of the Alpes, went vnto the Queene of Mauarres house, where he had no sooner espied the mayd, but he became amorous of her,

Naturres Tales.

her, and because he had licence of his mother to mary one that liked him, he tooke no care but onely to haue a wife that pleased his fantasie, and knowing her to be such, asked her in mariage of the Queen, that most willingly consented as knowynge the Gentleman to be rich, and with his riches both faire and honest. The mariage being finisched the Gentleman wrot unto his mother that from thenceforth she neede not refuse him her house, for seeing he brought with him as faire a wife as any could be found, the Gentlewoman that enquired with what house he had matched himselfe, found hee had married their owne daughter, wherwith she was in such despaire, that he presently thought to die, perceiving that y more she sought to hinder her griefe, the more she was the means to increase the same. Whereupon not knowing what to doe, she went unto the Legate being at Aignion, to whom she confessed the greatness of her sinne, asking his counsell what she should doe therein. The Legat to sacrifice her desire, sent for certayne deuines, to whom he vicered the matter not naming the persons, & found by their counsel, that the Gentlewoman ought not to make it knowne unto her children, for that for their parts considering their ignorance, they had not sinned, buo that she during her life ought to do penance without making any shew thereof. Which done, the poore woman returned home, where not long after arived her sonne and her daughter in lawe that loued so wel, that never husband nor wife loued in better sort, for he was both his daughter, sister, and wife, & he too her father, brother and husband; in which great amity they concinued long: and the poore Gentlewoman in her extreme penance, that never sawe them merry, but shewe withdrawe her selfe to weepe.

The

The Queene of

The sixteenth Nouell.

¶ Of a merry conceited Bricke-layer, that had a curse
quacane to his wife, and of that which happened.



In the towne of Blearre nere Aragon, there is a
village called S. Mortis the faire, where there
dwelt a handsome proper fellow, as any in
Paris, where he was borne; and for his va-
lour he durst haue traualed into any Gentle-
mans buttery, where all the barrels had beeene full, without
eicher dagger or sword about him. For his resolution, if he
had once gotten vnder a maydes chamber window, he would
never haue started, till they had emptied a chamber pot on
his head. For his courage he durst haue gone into any baudy
house, and would haue come out againe as honest a man as
when he went first in. For his credit, he might haue runne on
the score for sixe pots with any Alewise that kept house with-
in five miles where he dwelt. For his qualities every maner
of way, he had the preheminence amongst all the pouches that
were in those quarters; for at Maytide, who was the ring-
leader for the fetching home of a Mappole, but he? at Mid-
summer he was chosen the Summer lord: at every bridall,
who must dance with the bride, but lusty Roger? Thus for a
pleasant life, the Constable of Paris liued not more merrily
then he. And for his reputation, he was almost as much re-
uerenced as our Churchwardens. But as the stoutest stand
of ale at last is set on tilt, and the fattest goose comes soonest
to the spitte; so his former fortunes were drawnen to the latest
date, and his prime of pleasures concluded with mishap. But
oh loue, oh cruell loue, that was the first fruit to his felicities.
But who can resist loue, if it be once crept into the botome
of a mans belly? oh what a rumbling it makes in his gars,
and how it betheobs him about the heart. And see now the se-
quele of his mishappe: he forzuned to be at a Sheepshearing,
where

Nauarres Tales.

where he met with a pretie wench, named Sisly, in a fine red peticoate, with damaske vpper bodies, a white apron before her: and vpon her head a broad felt hat, with a braue branch of rosemery sticking in her bosome, appointed amongst the rest with a paire of sheares to helpe sheare sheep, and he having brought forth a lusty yoong ramme, would haue laide him in her lappe; but she refusing to take him, said vnto him: Now good friend Roger, if you loue me, bring me none but yarde sheepe; for of all things in the world, I cannot abide these horned beasts. When he heard these milde words, that gently spoken, and how kindly she pronounced this sentence (Good friend Roger, if you loue me) oh heauen (thought he) what a sweet charme is this: then noting her modestie, that she could not abide the sight of an horned beast, he began to thinke with himselfe, how happy might that man be accounted that could light of such a wife. And having but a little giuen scope to his owne affections, for that had his tinder box ready to strike fire, by this time had set his fancy of such a flame, that not longer able to endure the heat without a cup of sacke, he sayd vnto her: Sister, your maner of phrasē hath wonderfully troubled me: for in your first speeches you call me your good friend Roger, and then you came in with a doubtfull demand, in these words (if you do loue me) as though I could be your good friend, and yet did not loue you: but Sisley, sith you haue yopt me such a doubtfull question, if you and I were alone by our selues, I would yopt you such an answere, that you shold well finde that I loued you, and that hereafter you might leane out your, If, and say Roger alle you loue me.

With these words, pretily casting her head at one side, she gaue him such alterring looke, that might aswell haue danted him with dispaire, as gaue him confort and hope of grace, for the one of her eyes was bleared, and seemed as though shee wept, the other was a pretie pinkeny, looking ever as though shee smilid, so that in her very countenance at one instant, you might easly beholde pleasure, and paine, pitie, and ri-

The Queene of

gour, curtesie and crueltie, loue and disdaine ; and then with a sweet voice, like one that were asking an almes, she sayd : Roger, if you loue me as you say, your loue shall not be lost : but men are so crafty now adayes before they are married, that they will make a mayde beleue they loue her, till they haue got by her belly, and then they wil not stick to deny their owne children , and that makes women when they be once married, to play their husbands such a cast, that they shall not know their owne children , but if your loue be no such loue, Roger, you shall not finde me vnkinde : when he heard the wisedome of the wench, it made his pulces so to beate, that he had thought his codpissle point would haue broken a sun-dre : but for an answere he said,

Sisly, your sober speeches so wisely deliuered, togither with your sweete countenance so lively placed , hath so pruailed with your good friend Roger, that for the better confirmation of my loue receave here this token , as a pledge of my good will , and taking then a twopenny piece which hee had in his purse, he holwed it and gaue it unto her, the which when she had received, she said.

Well Roger, now I doe account you as mine owne, and at night when my mother is gone to bedde, if you will come home, we will there talke further of this matter: and for your welcome I will bestowe of you a messe of creame.

Sisly, (says he) looke you keepe your promise, for I wilbe there, and because you will be at so much cost with a messe of creame, I will bring with me a peany worsh of spice cakes : and although they had thus referred their further speeches til their next meeting , yet during the time that they remained there in place, many amarous glances, & loving countenances, there passed still too and fro between them : but at nighe the appointed time being come, thither he went, and Sisly was at the window watching for his commynge , who hauing once espied him, she opened the doore , where she received him with such a sweete kisse, as if her breath had beeene lately perfumed for the purpose, whose dainty smell was as safety,

Nauarres Tales.

If it had beene a red herring that had beene newly rostid, her louely lipps pleasant and soft, like a locke of wool, that was but then come out of the seame basket : but should I tell you of al the other loue tricks that passed betwixt him and her that night, I might either oppresse your stomacks to thinke of it, or otherwise perhaps make you ashamed to heare it. But let this suffice, before they departed their mariage day was appoynted, and Silly, in time made her mother acquainted with the matter, who nothing misliking of her daughters chosse, gaue her her blessing, with many other good helps to furnishe soorth her bridall day : the which when time had drawen to be solemnized, & that the lusty youths of the parish were gathered together to go with vs to Church, and the young damsels were flocked on a heape to waite on the bride, attending her coming soorth, the good olde woman her mother, who had beene euer chary of the louely chickin her daughter, and euen at the very instant when we were ready to go to church, she was schooling of her with this exhortation.

Silly (said she) the day is now come which you haue so much longed after, it is twenty yeares ago since you first wished for a husband, & by lady daughter, you were then seuentene or eightene yeares of age, so that at this present you want not aboue two or three of forty : now if we went by yeares, you are olde enough to be wise: but I being your mother, besides my many yeares, which might aduance my skill: so I haue buried fourre severall husbands (the heauens be praised for it) which hath so much the more confirmed my experiance in the dispositions of men, and can the better iudge of their naturall inclinations: and by all that I haue gathred by my owne prooofe and practise, I haue found it still by triall, that the fantasies of men, are euer best fitted with the follies of women: but leauing generalities, and to come to so much as concerneth but thy selfe, thou art now to be married to a husband, who in respect of his age thou mightst be his mother: and couldst thou now but consider, what a comfort it is for an old woman, to be imbraced by a young man, O

The Queene of

daughter daughter, thy mothers mouth beginnes to water,
but with the very imagination to chinke of the pleasure, and
therefore happy maist thou deeme thy selfe, that art so like-
ly to injoy it.

But here is now a great piece of discretion to be vsed, for
as age conceiueth such contentment with the society of flesh
and pleasant youth, so youth will quickly fall a loathing of
olde and crooked age, if the parties be not wise to enforce that
by art, that they are otherwise deuised by nature: which is,
to shew a youthfull disposed minde how farre soever they be
spent in yeares, for it is a tyred jade that cannot cry weeher,
and a sorie mare that cannot wag her taile: thou art nowe to
consider the inequality of the yeares betweene thy selfe and
thy husband: and therefore a little to whet him onto make
him to like the better of thee, it shall not be a misse for thee to
shewe some youthfull concept, especially bring thy bridall
day, it is tollerable for thee a little to play the wanton. I tel
thee daughter, men are well pleased to see their wifes youth-
fully giuen, as there is nothing doth more delight them, then
to see them wantonly disposed: and this is the meane to win
your husbands liking, & to draw him to that appetite, which
your many yeares might quench, remember therefore what
I haue tolde you, and faile not for your aduantage, to shewe
some youthfull tricke.

Silly, making a manerly curtesie, sayd: yes for sooch mo-
ther, I will remember all that you haue tolde me: by this
time all things being prepared, to Church they went, where
the Priest having once done his office, they returned againe,
and were accompanied with her neighbours and friends that
went home to dinner with them, for whom there was prohi-
bited furmentie, and minced pies, besides other good meates:
both rost and sad, the which being all ready, Silie was pla-
ced at the vpper end, between two of the most substantial ho-
nest men according to the custome of the parish and himselfe:
likewise (as the maner was) did wait that day at the table
with a napkin hanging on his shoulder.

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Nauarres Tales.

But o what a comfort it was unto him, to see how daintily Sisly fed of euery dish that came to the table, and howe lustily she layd about her for her victuals, and (though hee) if it be true as some men say, that a good feeding horse will go through with his labour, then I warrdme you if I gue Sisly her meate, I neede not feare to ride her where I list: but dinner being almost at an end, and the cakebread & cheeze readie to be set on the table, the good old woman her mother who had likewise beeene very busie that daie in taking paines to fill the pots, & to carie away empty dishes, began to cheere vp the companie, bidding them welcome, and telling them she was soorie there was no better cheere for them.

Sisly, presently vpon the sight of her mother, bethought her selfe what she had to doe, and calling how to minde what lesson she had giuen her, and how she had willed her that day to shew some youthfull tricke, thereby to purchase the favor of her husband, and picking out at that very instant a fitte opportunity to perfourme it, she called to her mother, in this youthful maner, Mamma, up and cack, the old woman hearing her daughter, said: why how now Sisly, fie for shame, will you speake bugs words: could you not pretily haue said I pray you mother haue me vp to picke a roase, nay now I see you plaie the wanton too much, then speaking to the companie that face by, she said: I pray you bear with my daughters childishnes, for I know it is the furmentie that doth so much annoy her, for euen from her infancie, if shee had taken any spoone meat, she was stil troubled in the bottome of her backe side with a great ventosity.

The neighbours seeing the cleanelinesse of the wench, did euer after that call her by the name of manerly Sisly. Let this suffice: within a very few monchs after he was maried, Sisly began to grow ielous: for if she had bin once thirsty, and that he wanted money to send to the alehouse, she would tell him that hee spent away his thirst amongst some other yong queanes. Here began our first falling out: and to set forward the matter, there dwelt at the verp next house by him

The Queene of

a Tayloz that had a wife, who was sure once a day to measure the breadth of her husbands shoulders with his owne metayres.

Silly and this Tayloz wife grew to be acquainted; and amongst other conclusions it was agreed between them, that to prevent diseases, & to preserue them in health, they would every morning next their heares, take a phisicall diet, which was, a full quarte of the quintessence drawne from an Ale tub, warmed by the fire, with a grated nutmeg, halfe a peare of blacke pudding rosted, a quanticie of salt, with a measure of fine wheat flower, first made into paste, and after baked in a loafe of bread: these ingrediences after they had incorpora-
ted together, they would afterwardes lightly fast till noone; and they found such a commodicie in vsing the medicine, that if the Tayloz and he had not every morrowg given them mo-
ney to pay for the simples, it had not beene good for them to come that day after in their sightes; for the Tayloz wife she could handle a metpearce or a cudgell passing nimblly. But
Silly had gotten the practise of all manner of weapons; and besides that, she had the vse of her nailes, which she employed many times about my face: She could likewise handle a paire of bellowes about my pate, a paire of tonges a thwart my
skinnes, a firebrand sometimes should flie at my head, a ladle full of scalding liquor otherwhiles in my holome, a three foot
stoole, a pot, a candlestick, or any ocher thing whatsoe-
ver came next her hand, all was one to her; and she had learned such a dexteritie in the deliuerie, that they shoulde haue come whirling about my eares. But in thend, hee bruising with himselfe a remedy for these mischiefes, he found means to be made the Constable, hoping that his office would haue bin a protection to him for a peare, and that shee durst not haue stricken her Maiesties Officer. But within a day or two, it was his fortune to finde out a pot of strong ale, which he had set up in a corner for her owne drinking; and he (be-
ing christie) gaue it such a soope, that hee left very little be-
hind; the which afterward when she came to scke for, and

found

Naturres Tales.

found her slayre so pitifullly impaire, against his comming home at night, she prouided her of a walter : and hee was no sooner entred the doores, but sooth she comes with her cut-gell in her hand, and with such a terrible countenaunce, that were able to affright any man that shold behold it.

Roger (said she) I had thought you would never haue giuen me occasion to be iealous of you ; but now I see you loue a cup of strong ale better than you loue me : and do you not thinke them that I haue great reason to be displeased with your unkindenesse towards mee, and to beate out that lacke of loue that causeth you so lightly to regard me? Gisly (said he) take heed what you do, for you know that I am her Maiesties Officer, and here I charge you in the Queenes name that you holde your handes. What master Constable (said she) haue you gotten an enchantment for me? or do you thinke that your charme shall serue to excuse you? No sure, no, for now you haue deserued double punishment : first, your being an officer, if you offer wrong, your punishment must be so much the more grievous : and is it not meere iniuste to take that which was not prouided for you? Next, you haue deserued to be wel punished, for the little reuerence you haue vsed in the exercition of your office, commaunding mee in the Queenes name to holde my handes with your cappe on your head, noy busing any other durtie or reuerence. But master Constable, I will teach you how to vse an office : and with that she let flie at his head, Shoulders, and armes, and woulde still stie, Remember heereafter how you doe your office, rememb're your dutie to the Queen, remember when you do command in her Maiesties name, that you put off your cap, and do it with reuerence; and such a number of other rememb'rances she gaue him, as (I thinke) there was never poore Constable before nor since, so instructed in an office as hee was. To tell of many other like rememb'rances which at other times she bestowes on him, would be but tedious : but the conclusion is, he is now rid of her, she being dead, heele keepe himselfe a widower (for her sake) as long as he lieth.

The

The Queene of

The seuenteenth Nouell.

Mahomet one of the Turkish Emperours, executes
cursed crueltie vpon a Greeke maiden, whom he tooke
prisoner at the winning of Constantinople.

If you do euer make any proue of triall, to know
of what trampe the arrowes of loue be, & what
fruit they bring to them that do vse & practise the-

I am assured you shall be touched with some pitie
when you understand the beastly crueltie of an Infidell louer
towards his Ladie. He of whom I will declare the history is
Mahomet, not the false prophet, but the great grandfather of
Soliman Orttan Emperour of the Turkes, which reigned
at that time: he it is that to the shame and eternall infamie of
all Christian Princes of his time, did winne Constantinople,
and tooke away the East empire from Constantine, a Christ-
ian emperour. Mahomet then having obtained so great a
victorie at Constantinople, among the spoiles of that rich ci-
tie, there was a sond Greeke maiden, of such rare and excep-
tional beauty, as she allured the eyes of every wight to wonder
and beholde her, as a thing miraculous, whose name was
Hyrcenae, of the age of sixteene or seuentene yeeres, whom
a Captaine to gratifie his Lord did present: a iewell (as he
thought) most acceptable unto him, aboue all things of the
world. The emperor Mahomet, young and wanton beyond
measure, after that he had cast his eye vpon the yong maiden,
& had grauen her beauty in his heart, gaue a straight charge
that she should be kept for him, hoping after the tumult of the
warre was ended, to bestow conuenient time vpon her. The
retreise sounded, and the affaires of the empire reduced to faire
estate, remembraunce himselfe of the beauty of Hyrcenae
which had made a breach and entrie into his heart, comman-
ded that she should be brought forth unto him, and having
viewed her at his pleasure, he felte himselfe surprised with the
new flame, that he contained no other delight, but to play and
dallie with her, in such sorte, as his spirits being in loues full
possession, loue dealt with him so cruelly, as he could take no

Nauarres Tales.

cess day nor night, who peelded himselfe such a pray to his darling Hyerence, that he felte none other contentation in his minde, but that which he received of her. And this amorous passion endured the space of thre yeeres, taking such vigour and increase by little and little, that he begann to forget that which apperteined to the ornament and honor of his empire, leaving the whole administration of publike causes vnto his Baschats, he himselfe being so negligent, as he reposed in them all matters concerning the state of the empire. During this disorder, the bulgar people began secretly to grudge, as well for the confusion and disorder of the empire, as for the ill government of the same (and specially because the Baschats corrupted with auarice, employes themselves to the particuler profit, and to enrich themselves with the spoile of the people;) the Ianisaries on the other side a warlike people, and brought vp in continuall exercise of armes, began with open voice to deace and slander their lord, commonly complaining how he consumed his life like an effeminate person without inferring or doing any profit to the empire. To be more the matter came to such desolation, as it might rather haue bene called a sedition, then a murmur: & yet there was none so hardy, as durst attempt to declare the same to the empereour, knowing him to be of nature terrible, cruel & rigorous, that with a word would put him to death that went about to withdrawe him from his desire: so that hee was so dyclined with the beautie of the Grecke, that the least matter wherewith they might gaine occasion to withdraw him frō his negligent life, was enough to draw him into rage and fury. This poore empereour was so bewitched, as not onely he consumed daies & nights with her, but he burned with continual iealousie, whose beauty was so lively painted in the inward parts of his minde and heart, that he remained thus overwhelmed in beastly pleasure. Every man in particular, & all in generall conspired against him with one determinate minde, to peeld no more obedience vnto him in time to come, and purposed to chuse some empereour that were more warlike and martiall,

The Queene of

through whose succour and counsell they might not only conserue the things gotten, but amplusie the bounds & limits of their empire. Mustapha which was brought vp with the emperor, a gentle personage, franke of talke, and so neare to his maestie, that he might go into his chamber althogh y^e Grecke was present: when he perceiued convenient time, such as he desired to haue, repaired to the emperour upon a day, who li-
king wel of his deuices, walked alone with him into his gar-
den: to whom after he had made great reuerence, according
to their custome, he said: O^r my souereigne lord & master, if I
might speake freely, without seruile feare, which stayeth me,
or if y^e terror of your displeasure might not abash me, I would
willingly declare unto your maestie that which concerneth
not onely your security & saueguard, but (which is more) the
safety of your whole empire. Whome Mahomet answered
with mery countenance, in these words: Cast away such cold
feare as straþ thee, & speake hardly thy mind, shew me what
it is that toucheth me. I doubt, & it shall please your maiestie,
lest I shall seeme ouer presumptuous, and rash, if I discouer
the secrets of my heart; but ouer ancient education, the duty
of my conscience, with the expeience that you haue alwayes
had of my fidelity, haue so much forced me, as being no lon-
ger able to rule my selfe, I am constrainted (by what vertuous
prouocation I know not) to manifest thing's unto you, that
both time & necessity will make you thinke them good & ne-
cessary; although (it may so be) that now your eies be so bound
up in the baile of your disordinate affection, that you can not
digest or take the same in good part. The life (my lord) which
you haue led since the taking of Constantinople, and the ex-
cessive pleasures wherein you haue bene plunged these three
yeres, is occasion, that not onyl your souldiers, and the rest of
your popular people, but the most fafhfull lords of your em-
pire, do murmur, conspire, & coniure against you: and par-
don me (my lord) if I speake so vntreverently in things tou-
ching your preseration, for there is no man, but doeth verie
much maruile of this great & new alteration that appeareth

Nauarres Tales.

in you, which doeth so abase you, & maketh you to degenerate from your antient generositie & valiance: your selfe hath giuen ouer your selfe to be a spoile & pray to a simple woman, that you wholly depend upon her flatteries & allurements; reason or counsell can take no place in your passionate & afflited heart: but I humbly beseech your maiestie to enter a little into your self, and make a survey of your life that you haue led these three yeres past. The glory of your ancestours acquired and come by so much shedding of so much bloud, kept by so great prudence, conserued by so happy counsell, haue they not presentation of them before your face & the remembrance of their memorabile victories, doeth it not touch the depth of your conscience & the magnanimitie & valiance, wherby they be immortalized, and their fame registered thoroow the whole world, is it extinguished in you: their trophies & monumets gotten, and abuanced to all the corners of the earth, be they shewen downe and defaced, from the siege of your reuembiance: But where is now the ardent desire which boyled in you from your infancie, to make Italie tributarie unto you, and to cause your selfe to be crowned at Rome, emperour aluell of the Orient as of the Occident: this is not the way to amplitie and enlarge your empire, but rather to rettaine and diminish the same: this is not the way to preserue it, but to spoile it, and to make it lesse. If Ottomon the first Turke or stroke of your gentle familie & kinred, had thus given himselfe to be corrupted in idlenesse, you had not nobly inhereted the noble kingdome of Greece, nor gouerned the countries of Galatia and Bithinia, and many other provinces, which incircume the great sea. Semblably his sonne Orcan (a lively image of his father, and a folower of his valiant facts, had not reuenged ouer Licaonia, Phrigia, Caria, nor dilated the bounds of his empire, to Hellespont. What shall I speake of Amurates the successor of Orcan, who was the first that invaded Europa, conquered Thrasia, Siria, Rasia, and Bulgaria. And Baiazet likewise, did not he cut off the head of the great Tamberlaine, which called himselfe the scourge of God,

The Queene of

God, and brought into the field fourte hundred thousand
Sithians also schaue, and sixe hundred thousand footmen:
Well I passe ouer with silence the curteous exploites of your
grandfather, Mahomet, who conquered Masedonia, and
made the countries to feele the edge of his sword, even to the
sea Tauric, leuell passe manie wonderfull expeditiōn
and iornies, by him made against the Lidiāns, and Scicilli-
ans: but nome I cannot reviue the memorie of your father
Amurāt, but to my great sorow & griefe, who by the space
of syxte yeares, made the sea and earth to tremble and quake
and with the force of his strong hand, used such cruell re-
vengement over the grecians, that the memorie of the wounds
dot remains at this daie, even to the mountaines of Tho-
mio, and Sindus, he subiugated the Phœcians: made tribu-
tarie Athens, Boetia, Aetolia, Caramania, and all the bar-
barous nations, from Mozea, to the straites of Corinthe,
what need I here to bring in the cruel battaille that he foughte
with the Emperour Sigismounde, and Phillippe Duke of
Burgundia, wherein he ouerthrew the whole force of the
christians, tooke the Emperour prisoner, and the Duke of
Burgundia also, whom he sent to Andronopolis; or to see
member other fierce armes which he sent into Hungaria,
whereof your Maiestie is a faichfull witness, your selfe being
full there in your owne person.

Judge then my Lord what diligent, and intollerable ser-
vē he used in his manifold glorious enterprisē, and famous
victories, doe you thinke that if he had beene idle in his pal-
lace, amongst the Ladies you had inherited your Empire or
had now beene Lord of so manie provinces, which he is not
sufficient to rule, that cannot prouide to confirm, and establish
the same: there be many of your subjects and vasalls at this
day, that doe obey and honour your Maiestie, more for feare,
than good loue they beare you, that would rebel against you,
if fortune woulde turne her back. The christians of long time
(as you know) haue swoyne your ruine & destruction moreo-
ver they say that their high bishop the Pope of Rome, hath
conuo-

Nauarres Tales.

consecrated al his prelates to unite, & reconciled the princes
and monarchs of christendome togither to ouerrun you, & to
take the scepter out of your hands, & to disposite you of your
empire, but what know we whether theyle joine their forces
with the power of the Persian Sophi, your capital enemy,
or with y Loudoun of Egypt, your ancient adversary, which
if it come to passe (as god for bid) your Empire wil be conju-
ncted: gather your wits ther together, frō henceforth my Lord,
& cal againe reason, which so many peareys you haue banished
away from you: awake out of the deepe sleepe, that hath sen-
ted by your eies, imitate & follow the steps of your ancestors
which euer loued better one day of honor then iahundreth li-
ving peareys of shame and reproch, attend to the government
of your empire, leaue off this effeminate life, receive againe
the smell of your generositie and vertue, and if you cannot ac-
one time cut off & reindue all that amorous heate, which vn-
doubtedly doth pour heart, moderat the same by little and litle,
and give some hope to your people, which thinke you to be
utterly lost, and desperate of recovery, or if so be the greeches
doe so much delight you, who shall let you to carry her with
you in al your iorneys and expeditions: why, cannot you both
imploy her beautie togither, and use the practise of armes: me
thinke that your pleasure shalbe greater after you haue won
some victory, and subdued some countrie, to enjoy her in your
armes, then to remaine in a house with eternall infamy, and
continuall grudging of your subiects: but proue I praise you,
to seperate your selfe certaine daies from her, and you shall
certainly judge, how farre more passing, the pleasure be so de-
ferred, then those that be daily vsed: yet one thing more, & it
please your Maiestie, therer resteth to be said, which is, that al
the victories of your progenitors, or the conquestis, which
your selfe hath made, be to smal purpose if you doe not keepe
them, & increase them, the keeping of a thing gotten, being
of no lesse glory and praise, than the conquest: be now then a
conquerour of your selfe, humble beseeching your Maiestie,
that if I haue spoken any thing, disagreeable to your minde,
wilfull

The Queene of

according to your mounted clemencie to pardon the same, and
to impute the fault to my bounden daertie, and the care that I
haue of your honoꝝ and safetie. Mahomet, after he had heard
the long discourse of this slauie, stood as still as a blocke, and
fixing his eies upon the ground, with sodaine change of cou-
lour, declared by outward signes, the cogitations and unqui-
etnes of his mind in such wise, as the poore Daue Mustapha,
seeing in him those alterations, was in doubt of his life; whose
words so pricked þ Emperors heart, that he knew not what
to doe, or whereupon to be resolved; and feeling his conscience
troubled with a furions battel, knowing euidentlie that Mu-
stapha had spoken the truch, and that he uttered the same like
a truffie servant to his maister; but on the other side the beau-
tie of the greek was still before his eies, and the mind he had
to abandon her, gaue him such alarme, that he seemed at that
instant, as though his heart had beene tornne out of his bellie,
and thus moued with diuers tempestis, and disquieted with
sundrie thoughts, hauing his eies inflamed with great rage
and furie, he said unto him: although thou hast spoken vntre-
uerentlie enough, yet our education togither, and the fidelitie
that I haue prooued in thee in time past shall be thy pardone
for this time. To the purpose; before the sunne doth compas
the Zodiacke, I will let it be knownen to thee and other, what
puissance and power, gouernes mee, whether I am able to
bynde mine affection or not; take order in the meane time, that
all my noble men, the Baschats, and the principall of my men
of war, be assembled togither to morrowe in the midst of the
great hall of my pallace. This determination finished, the
Emperour went into the greeke with whom bee rejoiced all
that day and night, and made more of her then ever he did be-
fore; and the more to flatter her, he dined with her, and com-
manded that after dinner, she should adorne herselfe with her
best jewells, and deck her with the costliest apparell shee had;
whereunto the poore wench obeyed, not knowing that it was
her funeral garments: on the other side Mustapha by certain
of the Emperors minds at the howre appointed, caused at the
nobilitie

Nauarres Tales.

nobilitie to be assembled in the hall, euerie of them maruailling what moted þ Emperor so to doe, since he had so long time shut vp himselfe, without shewing his person abroade: being thus assembled, and every man talking diversly of this matter, according as the affection serued: behold the Emperour entred the hall, leading the Greeke by the hand, whs being adorued otherwise than she was wont to be, was accompanied and garnished with beautie, so rare and excellent that she resembled rather an heauenlie Goddess, then a humaine creature: the Turke being come into the hall, after that the Lordes had made their reuerence, according to the woonted maner, he holding stil the faire greeke and the left hand, and stode still in the midst of the same, looking furiously round about him, he said vnto them. So farre as I understand, all you doe mutine and grudge, because I (being vanquished with loue) cannot be deuided, nor yet content my selfe day nor night from the presence of this greeke: but I doe knowe none of you all so continent, and chaste in loue, that if he had in possession, a thing so rare and pretious, so amiable, indowed with beautie so excellent, but before he could forget her, and giue her ouer, bee would three times be well aduised. What saie you to the matter: euerie of you shall haue free libertie, franchtie to tell me your minde: but they rayt with an incredible admiration, to see so faire a thing, saide that he had with great reason passed his time with her. Whereunto the barbarous cruyell prince awnsWERED: well, now then I will make you to vnderstand, that there is no earthly thing that can binde vp, or captiuate my sences so much, but that from henceforth I will follow the glorie, of mine ancestors, and imitate the valiance of the Ottomans, which is so fixed in my brest, as nothing but death is able to blot it out of my remembrance. Those wordes finished, incontinently with one of his handes, he catched the Greeke by the haire of the head, and with his other hand, he drew his falchion from his side, and folding his hands about her golden locks, at one blowe, he strake of her head, to the great terroure of them

The Queene of, &c.

them all; when he had so done, he said vnto them: Mote
ye knowe, whether your Emperour is able to represse, and
bridle his affections, or not. Within a while after, meaning
to discharge the rest of his choler, he addressed a camp of four
score or an hundred thousand men: with whome piercing
Vollue, he besieged Belgrade, where fortune was so con-
trarie vnto him that he was put to flight, and lost there
a notable battaille against the christians, vnder
the conduct of John Pumiades, srt.
named le Blanche,

FINIS.



